

Iraq relaxes draconian currency laws

Baghdad (AP) — The government said Saturday it was relaxing tough currency laws, which barred foreigners from bringing Iraqi dinars into the country. Foreigners are now allowed to bring in 1,000 dinars, Director General of the Customs Department Basim Abood Al Janabi said. The decision would help absorb part of Iraqi currency circulating on the black market in some Middle East countries, especially Jordan. Jordan has been Iraq's ally link to the outside world since sanctions were imposed against Baghdad after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Last year's Gulf war which liberated Kuwait destroyed most of Iraq's public facilities and sanctions keep its airports and ports closed. Travellers, therefore, have to use land routes to Jordan. The Iraqi currency, vulnerable to equally every rumour sweeping Baghdad, has recently traded at about 27 to the U.S. dollar in Amman, after plunging to a record low of 47 to the dollar on the black market last month. It was about 18 to the dollar in July. Officially, the government still sticks to the pre-war exchange rate which makes one dinar worth \$3.2.

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Princess Sarvath visits Chicago Centre

CHICAGO (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hashem visited a special national centre for the handicapped at Northwestern University in Chicago. Princess Sarvath, who was accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, toured the various units of the "Centre for Learning Disabilities" and was familiar with the equipment and facilities used to conduct tests to help the educational difficulties of handicapped children and teenagers of physiotherapy they carry. Princess Sarvath discussed with senior officials at the centre scopes of cooperation between Jordan and the centre.

Observers attend Mideast talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Observers have been invited to participate in Middle East peace talks, Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Friday. Dr. Ghali said the Foreign Policy Council at a luncheon that afternoon Ministry Shimon Peres of Israel had invited the U.N. observers to water supplies, peace and security. Israel had boycotted the talks but said it would participate. The talks are scheduled to be in Paris on Oct. 29 and the on refugees on Nov. 11 in Geneva, Canada.

Adomni to meet in Paris

PARIS (AP) — Foreign Minister Dumas will meet here in coming days with the head of the PLO, Yasser Arafat, and the PLO's Political Department, Fawzi Kaddoumi, the ministry announced Friday. No exact date was yet set for the meeting, which comes on the eve of a visit to Syria by Dumas to Syria, Israel and to encourage the peace process. On Oct. 29-30, Paris is to a meeting of the regional development commission as part of multilateral peace negotiations. At that time, France is to propose that a fund for economic development of the Middle East be set up. Ministry spokesman Bernard said the meeting will be a regular French contact with the PLO and a follow-up to Mr. Dumas' Middle East

Peaceful protest in Yemen against prices

SANAA (R) — Hundreds of demonstrators demonstrated peacefully in Aden's main streets Friday against high prices, unemployment and distribution of public utilities. The demonstrators, led by teachers, journalists, and students, were unable to hand over a petition to Yemen's Vice President Ali Salem Al Bidhaili of heavy security around the president. Mr. Bidhaili has been in Sana'a for more than two weeks protesting the government's impotence to check a wave of attacks and assassinations against senior Yemeni officials, mostly from the former Marxist South.

Relief continues to flow into war-torn areas

ADISHU (AP) — Somalian warlord responded Saturday to a U.N. warning to stop blocking relief ships and to the world body's offer to send more peacekeepers. We know what's good for people, we know better than to do it, said Karim Ahmed, spokesman for General Ali Said Farah Aidid's National Alliance, said in an interview with the Associated Press. Mr. Ali reiterated that Aidid was opposed to sending the 500 U.N. soldiers to Somalia to protect shipments. "Let us first see if the 500 would work, then see if it's necessary to have more," Mr. Ali said. General Aidid has long opposed foreign troops in the country. He has refused to allow any other troops into the country, including the second port of Kismayu, which agencies would like to use extensively (see page 2).

Coordination meeting opens in Amman; Musa said to carry Israeli proposals

Arabs reaffirm rejection of separate peace accords

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — All Arab parties to the ongoing peace negotiations with Israel opened a two-day coordination meeting in Amman Saturday, reaffirming their commitment to a comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Dismissing as unwarranted concerns that one or more Arab countries would go into separate peace agreements with Israel, Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said all parties involved in the peace process share the view that peace should be comprehensive. "Foreign ministers concerned (with the talks) have stated in

their previous meetings that there is no objection to attaining progress on certain tracks (of the bilateral talks) provided that the final solution is comprehensive," Dr. Abu Jaber said in an interview broadcast over Sawt Al Arab Radio.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, whose country has been targeted in what many analysts describe as a concerted Israeli campaign for a separate peace deal, also reaffirmed that Damascus "remains committed to a comprehensive settlement (to the Arab-Israeli conflict) on all Arab fronts."

"We are talking about a comprehensive settlement, not unilateral deals," Mr. Sharaa told reporters upon arrival. He accused Israel of "trying to fish in murky waters" and said the Jewish state did not want to make progress in the Middle East peace process before the American presidential elections on Nov. 3. "This is regrettable since we believe that the peace process could continue unhindered before and after the American elections," Mr. Sharaa said.

He said the Amman meeting would emphasise that peace should be comprehensive and based on United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

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Foreign ministers and delegates from Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Egypt meet in Amman Saturday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alana)

Palestine Central Council votes for continued peace talks

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Central Council (PCC) has voted in favour of the U.S.-arranged Middle East peace process, giving the Palestinian negotiating team the green light to attend a new round of talks with Israel opening in Washington next week.

The decision of the 80-member assembly was a major triumph for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat who had called for the meeting to silence hardliners demanding that the Palestinians abandon the stalled peace process.

"I am glad we have been given an expanded mandate to remain at the negotiation table," chief delegate Haidar Abdul Shafi told reporters early Saturday.

The council, which is the steering committee of the larger Palestine National Council, had been meeting in Tunis since Thursday. Mr. Arafat, in a gesture to the hardliners, said earlier peace

talks with Israel would end if it continued to ignore U.N. Resolution 242 calling for withdrawal from captured Arab territory.

"If they don't accept 242, there will not be negotiations," Mr. Arafat told the Tunis meeting.

Invitations from co-sponsors Washington and Moscow to the Madrid talks were based on Resolution 242.

Mr. Arafat told the council that Israel was applying 242 only in its negotiations with Syria over the Golan Heights.

Palestinians have said that until now, Israeli negotiators have not based their talks about the occupied West Bank and Gaza on 242.

"It is a message of peace from the Palestinians to the entire world," declared Mr. Arafat, a broad smile on his face, as the council concluded its two-day meeting at 2 a.m. (0100 GMT).

The 63-year-old Palestinian leader indirectly referred to his opponents, stressing the need to "preserve the democratic and

multi-party system which we enjoy."

Earlier, one of the larger PLO factions walked out of the meeting hall, refusing to vote in the final session, and another rejected the outcome of the meeting.

The argument was over the council's political statement, a four-page document communique that gave the negotiating team a new mandate to pursue autonomy talks with Israel.

The hardliners argued that it was pointless to remain in the process when Israel rejects most of the Palestinian demands: Autonomy leading to a state in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, withdrawal from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and the right of refugees to return.

Israel has offered only limited autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

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Iraq, U.N. reach new relief pact

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has agreed in principle to the resumption of United Nations relief programmes in the war-torn country before winter, a senior U.N. official said Saturday.

James Grant, executive director of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), told a news conference he reached agreement with high-ranking Iraqi officials in four days of intensive talks in Baghdad.

Mr. Grant said they agreed on a national plan of action for relief work in Iraq until March 1993 and a memorandum of understanding covering conditions under which U.N. agencies will operate in the country.

"We have reached agreement on the memorandum of understanding, we have reached agreement on a national plan of action," Mr. Grant told reporters.

Relief work in Iraq has come to a virtual standstill since the last aid agreement — the second between Iraq and the United Nations — expired last June.

Mr. Grant said the memorandum of understanding was sub-

ject to ratification by authorities in New York and Baghdad. "I hope the signing will take place next week in New York," he added.

About half of the \$180 million package will be sent to the north, where the rebellious Kurdish population is entrenched, according to another U.N. official, Shaikat Fareed.

"Yes, there is an agreement in principle. Right now we are working out details," said Mr. Fareed, a deputy to Jan Eliasson, U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

The new agreement, which will be valid until March 1993, "will cover the entire country, but as it is well known there need to be a special stress in the north," Mr. Fareed told the Associated Press.

On Saturday, Mr. Fareed, a Pakistani, met with senior government officials as part of his effort to finalise the agreement.

Differences remain over the strength of U.N. guards who would oversee the aid distribution and the use of U.N. communication equipments.

Iraq wants the guard's strength

limited to 150. The United Nations is insisting on 300 to 500. Baghdad also has reservations about allowing foreign guards posted on its soil unrestricted access to communications equipment.

Iraq also reassured U.N. weapons inspectors they had no reason to fear for their safety as they began rummaging through its remaining arsenals.

Information Minister Hamed Youssef Humadi said in a statement that his country would guarantee the team's security — a response to statements by diplomats at the United Nations, who voiced fears for the safety of the team.

He said worries about a possible Iraqi confrontation with the inspectors were cooked up by the administration of President George Bush in the hope that some verbal Iraq-bashing could boost his flagging re-election chances.

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Save the Children among relief groups to leave, page 2

King receives message from Greek president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received a message from Greek President Constantine Karamanlis congratulating him over his recovery and safe return after surgery abroad. The message also expressed Greece's desire for stronger ties with Jordan.

The message, which was delivered to the King at the Royal Court by visiting Greek Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Virginia Tsouderou, also contained appreciation of King Hussein's continued drive to attain a just and lasting settlement of the Middle East question.

King Hussein requested the envoy to carry a goodwill message to the Greek president and people wishing Greece

continued progress and prosperity. He said that Jordan was determined to pursue all efforts to attain an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Present at the audience were two Greek officials and the Greek ambassador to Jordan. Earlier Saturday Ms. Tsouderou held a round of talks with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber on scopes of economic cooperation between Athens and Amman.

Regional and international issues also figured in the talks, which mainly focused on efforts to find a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the developments in the Balkan region.

Dr. Abu Jaber urged the European Community (EC), which includes Greece, to play

Pro-palace party wins Moroccan polls

RABAT (R) — A party led by King Hassan's brother-in-law won the most seats in Friday's rural and municipal council elections held in Morocco and Western Sahara. The Ministry of Interior said Saturday. The centrist National Assembly of Independents (RNI) led by former Prime Minister Ahmed Osman won 4,668 or more than 22 per cent of the 22,282 council seats. Mr. Osman, 62, who was husband of the late Princess Lalla Noor, the king's sister, formed the RNI in 1978 to head together independent candidates who had won a big majority of seats in legislative elections the previous year. Results released by the ministry showed that with 300 returns still to come non-party independents came second after the RNI with 2,955 seats or about 14 per cent. They were followed by the centrist Constitutional Union created in 1983 by former Prime Minister Mami Bouabid, with 2,860 seats, and old-guard nationalist opposition party Istiqlal with 2,663, and the rural-based People's Movement with 2,563. Two left-wing opposition parties, the Socialist Union of People's Forces and the Party of Progress and Socialism, won 1,404 and 164 seats respectively. Interior Minister Driss Bassi told a news conference "there was no landslide in favour of any party... in general voters withdrew their support from the parties of the incumbents."



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday receives Greek envoy Virginia Tsouderou, who delivered to him a message from President Constantine Karamanlis (Petra photo)

a greater role in the current efforts for peace in the Middle East based on U.N. resolutions.

Ms. Tsouderou voiced her country's desire to promote Jordanian-Greek relations and to play, through the EC, greater efforts to achieve peace in the region.

The Greek envoy also said

day met the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, Ahmad Lawzi and Abdul Latif Arabiyat respectively, to discuss the Middle East.

Both Mr. Lawzi and Dr. Arabiyat briefed the Greek official on parliamentary life in Jordan and discussed means of promoting bilateral relations.

'Martyrs of strike' buried

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Thousands of Palestinians, in the biggest nationalist demonstration in Arab Jerusalem in years, gathered Saturday to bury two cousins they hailed as martyrs of the Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike.

Israeli police stayed away from a village on the outskirts of Jerusalem where some 4,000 Palestinians marched for more than three hours behind the bodies, which were draped in Israeli-banned Palestinian flags.

Hussein Nimr Obaidat, 24, who had served three years in an Israeli prison for membership in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), died in hospital Wednesday.

His death came three days after he ended a two-week hunger strike along with thousands of Palestinian prisoners demanding better conditions.

Mr. Obaidat's cousin, Mustafa Obaidat 23, was shot by police a week ago during a march in Arab East Jerusalem in support of the striking inmates.

While thousands of villagers gathered for Hussein's funeral, news came that Mustafa had just died of his wounds in hospital. His body was brought to the village and a double burial was held.

The procession was led by masked activists from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and its rival, the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Anti-Israeli chants and angry cries of revenge reverberated across the barren hills strewn with shanty houses. The masked activists, holding Palestinian flags and copies of the Koran climbed an uphill road.

"These are the martyrs of the captive Palestinian movement," cried Sheikh Mohammad Hussein, a preacher from the village as the two bodies were simultaneously lowered into graves in the same cemetery.

Police heaped Hussein's body to his family Saturday after an autopsy was performed the day before.

"The prisoner died of an infection on the heart muscle. His death had nothing to do with the fast. There was no sign of malnutrition," said Dr. Yehuda Hies, director of Israel's Pathology Institute, who performed the autopsy.

But a Palestinian pathologist who participated in the autopsy said the cause of the infection could not yet be determined.

The strike by most of the 12,000 Palestinian inmates jailed for resisting Israeli occupation triggered the bloodiest wave of demonstrations in the occupied territories in over a year.

Figures kept by Reuters show at least 13 Palestinians have died by Israeli gunfire since the hunger strike began on Sept. 27.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, apparently concerned the hunger strike would revive the nearly five-year-old Palestinian uprising, ordered a crackdown on the unrest.

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Acceptance of Israel contingent on creation of Arab state — Prince

ISRAEL CANNOT hope to gain the full acceptance by the Arab countries of its legitimacy unless the ongoing peace process produces a Palestinian state whose legitimacy is based on United Nations legitimacy, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said.

The Crown Prince, addressing the Mid-America Committee in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, pointed out that despite numerous U.N. resolutions passed since 1947 calling for two independent states in Palestine, the only state that has come to existence was Israel, which now controls the entire land of Palestine.

"The Arab state does not yet exist and the frontiers of Israel have not been defined in any internationally-accepted way," said the Crown Prince. "These

Jordan's GDP grows by 7%

DESPITE THE negative consequences of the Gulf crisis and other economic problems, Jordan has registered a growth of seven per cent in its gross domestic product (GDP) in 1992, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told the Mid-America Committee in Chicago, Illinois.

"In spite of the very serious losses incurred by our economy as a result of the Gulf crisis, the closing or reduction of our most important markets, the sudden increase in our population making new and almost impossible demands on our social services; in spite of all this Jordan's economic performance in 1992 has surpassed all expectations," the Crown Prince said.

"Our GDP growth has exceeded seven per cent in real terms, although the International Monetary Fund — that hard master — only expected three per cent," he said.

then are the two main objectives of the peace process in the long run, even though the terms of reference drawn up by the American administration and accepted by both the Israeli and Palest-

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Egypt speeds up quake relief

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government, hurt by criticism that it has been slow to help Cairo's earthquake victims, ordered a task force of engineers into the slums on Saturday to help reinforce the homes.

It assembled 400 engineers from the army, housing ministry, universities and local government and ordered them to finish safety checks within three or four days at the latest.

The government has been stung by publicity given to relief efforts by Muslim fundamentalists, the main political opposition in Egypt, who put up tents within hours of Monday's quake while official relief efforts took days to reach many slum areas.

"We must speed up our operation to collect the homeless from the streets," an emotional Cairo Governor Omar Abdul Akher told the teams of engineers before sending them out into some

of the city's worst-hit slums.

The government's National Democratic Party (NDP) faces its first serious competition with the fundamentalists for five years on Nov. 3 when Egyptians vote for 2,778 local councils across the country.

President Hosni Mubarak, meanwhile, estimated the bill for relief, compensation and new housing from the earthquake at more than two billion pounds (\$660 million).

This was four times his initial estimate Tuesday, the day after the quake struck. Despite a detailed review of quake losses already completed, Mr. Mubarak told a news conference the estimate still might be revised upward.

Casualties surpassed 500 dead and 4,000 injured from the quake, which measured 5.9 on the Richter scale of earthquake magnitude. Thousands of houses

and buildings were destroyed or damaged.

"The assistance we have received will not be enough to cover everything," Mr. Mubarak said. "But we have our own funds to use. This will not affect our general economic reform programme."

Donations of more than \$207 million cover less than a third of the new damage estimate. Among pledges are \$204 million from oil-rich Arabs and just over \$2 million from the West.

The president spoke as rescue work continued at a gradually diminishing mound of debris from a 14-storey apartment block that the quake brought down in seconds last Monday. Up to 15 survivors were pulled out of the rubble Monday and Tuesday, and as of Saturday, 69 bodies had been retrieved.

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Brandt laid to rest with full state funeral

BERLIN (Agencies) — World leaders hailed Willy Brandt as a giant of German history at a full state funeral Saturday as thousands of mourners lined the streets outside Berlin's Reichstag building.

Ranking him with former West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, President Richard von Weizsaecker said Mr. Brandt was a pragmatic visionary who had eased cold war tensions and restored Germany's standing in the world.

"He changed the relationship of the Germans to the world and the world's relationship to Germany," Mr. Von Weizsaecker, told the 1,600 guests attending the funeral ceremony.

Mr. Brandt, who died on Oct. 8 aged 78, was honoured with a performance by the Berlin Philharmonic and a solemn military send-off on the Reichstag's steps before his casket was driven to a Berlin cemetery for a private family ceremony.

As West Berlin's mayor when the wall was built in 1961, Mr. Brandt predicted Germany's division would not last and as West German chancellor from 1969 to 1974 he pushed for improved East-West relations.

Almost 30 years later Mr. Brandt, on Oct. 3, 1990, stood on the Reichstag steps at a proud and emotional official celebration of the reunion of East and West Germany.

"Willy Brandt saw it as his task to build bridges — bridges over walls and barbed wire, bridges to our eastern neighbours, bridges between north and south," said German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Mr. Kohl thanked Brandt for giving him valuable advice during the months leading up to German unification.

Reflecting Mr. Brandt's worldwide stature, the funeral guests included former Soviet President

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6 deputies in Kuwait cabinet

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait's emir announced a new cabinet Saturday that includes a record six elected members.

The 14-member cabinet includes a new oil minister, Ali Ahmad Al Baghli, a member of the parliament elected on Oct. 5. He replaces Hamoud Al Rqobah.

"The elected members had to be given something significant in the horse-trading with the government," a diplomat said, referring to the award of the strategic Ministry of Oil to Mr. Baghli. Oil is Kuwait's main source of income.

The new government included four members of the Al Sabah family in addition to Sheikh Saad. Five ministers of the previous government retained their portfolios.

It was the first time ever that

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Special investigator named for Italian bank-Iraq case

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. attorney general Friday named a special investigator to probe the government's handling of illegal loans to Iraq through an Italian government-owned bank in Atlanta.

Attorney General William Barr chose retired U.S. District Judge Frederick B. Lacey of New Jersey to look into the emerging scandal involving his Department of Justice, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and U.S. relations with Italy and Iraq during the buildup to the Gulf war.

"I have no reason to believe that any officials at the Department of Justice have acted improperly or unprofessionally," Mr. Barr said.

"Nevertheless, in the current politically charged environment, nothing could be worse than to have this matter tried in the press based on allegation, rumor and leaks," he told a news conference.

The move was criticized as "a half step" in the right direction "when a full step is needed," by Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton's running mate for vice-president in the November election, Sen. Al Gore. Mr. Gore has been seeking to make a campaign issue of the Bush administration's support of Iraq prior to the Gulf war.

"The mistakes and the mistakes of the Bush foreign policy toward Iraq and the billions of dollars in fraudulent bank loans" need to be investigated by somebody "who is truly independent and not one who has to report to the attorney general," Mr. Gore said in a statement.

Mr. Barr said Mr. Lacey will have a free hand to pursue a thorough investigation of such matters as conduct of the Department of Justice in prosecuting the fraud case against the Atlanta manager of Italy's Banco

Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL) in connection with \$5.5 billion worth of illegal loans to Iraq.

Mr. Barr also announced creation of a special task force to oversee developments in the case.

"This task force will add a group of prosecutors drawn from around the country and will allow the...investigation to move forward quickly and thoroughly," he said.

Mr. Barr said his announcement does not preclude the appointment of a court-appointed independent counsel.

"If Judge Lacey finds evidence of wrongdoing, so be it," he said. But such a step was unlikely — especially if a Democratic administration comes to power in the Nov. 3 elections. Mr. Barr conceded that Mr. Lacey might not stay on, because the appointment "would depend on the next administration."

By contrast, an independent counsel named by a court would automatically survive a change in administrations.

Sen. David Boren, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said it was inappropriate for the Department of Justice to name an investigator when it itself is a target of the probe. Mr. Boren said his panel would continue its own investigation begun last week into the case.

Judiciary committees of both houses of Congress led demands Thursday for an independent probe of possible criminal wrongdoing by the CIA, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Justice in the bank loan case.

The House committee renewed a formal request rejected by Mr. Barr in August for appointment of an independent counsel. At that time, the attorney-general invited them to renew their appeal if new evidence emerged.

New information since August includes an admission by the CIA that, under Department of Jus-

tice prodding, it provided misleading information to the Atlanta federal court trying the bank manager. The Atlanta federal judge trying the case has withdrawn, criticizing the government and throwing out a plea bargain between prosecution and defendant.

Eighteen House Democrats wrote Mr. Barr: "It is now evident that misleading and incorrect information was provided to a federal judge and local prosecutors."

"It is beyond dispute that these allegations are extremely serious and demand a thorough and unbiased investigation...CIA officials have asserted that this was done with the knowledge, and at the urging, of high-ranking Justice Department officials."

Under the special prosecutor law, whenever a majority of either party on the House or Senate judiciary committees formally requests a special prosecutor appointment, the attorney-general must respond in writing in 30 days. That would be well after next month's presidential election.

Prosecutors contend that Atlanta bank manager Christopher Drogoul acted alone in lending Iraq the money, used in part to buy weapons and guaranteed partly by the U.S. government.

But Mr. Drogoul's lawyers have argued that he had full authority from the Italian headquarters of BNL. They said the Department of Justice shielded bank headquarters because an indictment would have severely strained relations with Italy and possibly toppled the divided Italian government.

Documents have shown that the Italian government mounted a campaign, hiring top Washington lawyers and sending diplomatic emissaries, to head off any indictment of BNL and to ensure that the bank was portrayed as a victim of Mr. Drogoul's unauthorized scheme.

Save the Children laments its forced closure of Iraq operations

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One of the last international relief groups in Iraq has closed its doors to the sick and hungry, pushed out under pressure by a government campaign seen as an attempt to separate Western political aims from humanitarian relief.

Save the Children shut down operations last week, reducing to two the number of foreign non-government organizations (NGOs) working in war-ravaged Iraq where the number of starving and sick children is rising, according to aid sources.

The decision came a few days before high-ranking Iraqi and U.N. relief officials signed an agreement in Baghdad Saturday finalising a new aid pact.

It is unclear how the agreement will affect international NGOs that have already left Iraq.

Save the Children began work in Basra under the umbrella of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) 12 days after the war started Jan. 16, 1991.

"It worked out well in the beginning because UNICEF had been in the country for 11 years. UNICEF knew all the officials and had the credibility and trust of officials," said Jean Field Office Director Rebecca Solti.

"But when the United Nations started working hard on the sanctions our work became problematic," she said, referring to travel restrictions and clashes between Iraq and the U.N. over aid programmes.

Relief efforts in Iraq came to a virtual standstill after the July 1 expiration of an agreement between Iraq and the U.N. and the Baghdad government imposed travel restriction on aid workers.

The government has accused many NGOs of favouring opposition groups in the north to topple the Baghdad leadership.

Save the Children is one of many relief organisations affected by the restrictions. The Quakers, which runs a relief group, sent their last shipment of medicine, food and U.N. approved agricultural equipment to Iraq two weeks ago. Their "future plans are up in the air," said a Quakers employee who asked not to be identified.

The employee said the Quakers, which concentrated their work in Basra, could no longer operate because the Iraqi government began charging official exchange rates at hotels where many organisations



Children under five are the hardest-hit in Iraq amid the continuing sanctions and wrangle over relief groups' work in the country (photo by Marianne Shabli)

were based. The Quakers' daily tab jumped from \$10 a day to \$300.

The travel restrictions also blocked workers from travelling to Basra where the governor's signature was needed to prove to the United Nations that agricultural supplies reached previously agreed destinations.

Care's Jordan-based regional manager Joanna Hall said Care still had workers in Baghdad and in northern Iraq but have "temporary suspended" work in the south because of restrictions.

"We are trying to have an even-handed approach, without any kind of geographical, ethnic or religious bias," she said.

"The Iraqi government is being very choosy and I can't blame them because there are a lot of smaller NGOs working for political reasons in the north," she said.

Ms. Hall said that CARE had not tried to raise funds for Iraq because it is clear if international agencies will be invited back.

"It was almost impossible to

get funds when we began work last August. It was not until January that we started getting them, but funding for the north is never a problem," she said, adding that Care has an undisclosed amount of financial reserves to distribute relief supplies if given the go-ahead to resume full operation.

But logjams over relief Care may have already done irreparable damage. According to Amman-based relief officials, mortality rates have risen between three to five per cent since the exodus of NGOs. Two new diseases are spreading among children, and according to the Jordan Red Crescent Society, Iraq does not have medical supplies to vaccinate most of its children.

As of two weeks ago, hospitals have been unable to screen blood for hepatitis B, an acute virus disease that attacks the liver and is contracted from contaminated water and food. "We are going to be facing a weak generation of Iraqi children. It is really disastrous," said Jordan Red Crescent Society Vice-President Mohammad Al Hadid.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Peacekeepers injured in road accident

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — Seven Nepalese peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Truce Supervision Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were injured when their truck overturned in the southern province, UNIFIL said Friday. A short UNIFIL statement said three of the soldiers were in critical condition and were admitted to the force's field hospital in Nagoura, at Lebanon's southern border with Israel. The other four suffered minor injuries and were treated locally by a first aid team near the southern village of Qalileh, where their truck overturned at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) Thursday. The statement did not give the peacekeepers' names. UNIFIL does not keep a record of soldiers injured in accidents. The U.N. force has 6,000 soldiers drawn from 10 nations. It has been deployed in South Lebanon since March 1978 and mans a narrow buffer separating an Israeli-occupied strip from the rest of Lebanon.

Israel searches Greek waters for lost sub

ATHENS (R) — Israeli experts have resumed a search for a submarine lost in Greek waters 24 years ago, Israeli Ambassador said Friday. The submarine Dakar disappeared on Jan. 25, 1968, with 68 crew on its maiden voyage under the Israeli flag. "Israel is not interested in the submarine but we want to recover the bodies of the sailors and give them a proper burial in Israel," Israeli Ambassador to Athens David Sasson said. "This is very important for their families and Israel as a whole." The Israeli research vessel, Nir, equipped with sensitive sonars able to detect any metal surface at the bottom of the sea, started work off the Greek island of Rhodes earlier this week. It will comb the seabed between there and Crete in an operation lasting nearly four months, Mr. Sasson told reporters. "We have searched for many years off Egypt and in other areas of the Eastern Mediterranean with no luck," he added. "We believe the submarine was between Crete and Cyprus when it was lost but we don't know what it was doing there." The Dakar's emergency buoy was washed up on a beach in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip in 1969, raising speculation that it was sunk by Egypt. Cairo has denied this.

Major to attend Alamein ceremony

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major will visit Egypt next week to attend a 50th anniversary ceremony for the World War II battle of Al Alamein and hold talks with President Hosni Mubarak, Mr. Major's office said Friday. A Downing Street statement said Mr. Major would fly to Egypt next Friday and return Sunday, Oct. 25. No other details were immediately available. The allied victory at Al Alamein in northern Egypt was a turning point in the war. Some 13,500 allied soldiers and 32,000 German and Italian troops died in nearly two weeks of fighting.

Israel holds suspect in killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli authorities are holding a 17-year-old Palestinian suspected of killing an Israeli at a Jewish settlement in the occupied Gaza Strip on Oct. 10, the army said Friday. An army spokeswoman said Daya Salaji of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip had been detained a few days ago. "On the day of the murder he (the suspect) looked for a victim at the greenhouse of Ganei Tal and...killed him," the spokeswoman said. She said Salaji was employed at the settlement. Amatzia Ben-Haim, a computer technician, had come to the settlement to repair a faulty computer network. He died after being hit on the head with a hoe.

U.N. bars scotch whisky for Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A Security Council committee which monitors U.N. sanctions has rejected a request to export 11,000 cases of scotch whisky to Iraq but approved the dispatch of 20,000 cases of canned beer and 19,000 cases of cigarettes, a committee source said. The request was submitted by Britain's U.N. mission, which said a Manchester exporter wanted to send the entire consignment to an importer in Zakho, northern Iraq. The Japanese member of the committee objected to the scotch, valued at \$275,000 (\$462,000), on grounds it was non-essential. There was no objection, however, to the \$150,000 (\$252,000) beer order or the \$1.92 million (\$3.22 million) worth of cigarettes. Iraq has been the target of U.N. sanctions since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait but food and medicine are exempt and other civilian items are subject to approval by the 15-member committee. Since it acts by consensus, the objection of one member is sufficient to disallow an item. Although Zakho is in a region of Iraq whose inhabitants rebelled against the government at the end of the Gulf war, the sanctions apply uniformly to all parts of the country.

Sudan pardons 33 prisoners

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has released 33 prisoners convicted seven years ago for crimes against state security, a Khartoum newspaper reported. The government-owned Al Sudan al Hadith daily said a decree issued by Sudanese leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir had also reduced the jail term of nine others from life imprisonment to 10 years. It said the 42 prisoners had been found guilty of participation in a plot to seize power in 1985.

Britain asks Sudan why EC staffer executed

LONDON (R) — The British Foreign Office called in a Sudanese diplomat Friday to demand a full explanation for the execution in August of a Sudanese man who worked for the European Commission in the southern capital of Juba. A Foreign Office statement said Britain, as current European Community (EC) president, also demanded that the Sudanese authorities allow a fact-finding mission into war-ravaged southern Sudan "to assess the situation first hand." A spokesman said Senior Foreign Office official David Gore-Booth told Sudanese diplomat Ahmad Omar Ahmad of the EC's "deep dismay" at the execution of the man, whose name was not immediately available. "The Sudan charged" was also told of our abhorrence...at human rights abuses throughout Sudan, including persistent recent reports of violations by government forces in Juba," the statement said. Friday's action followed a strong EC statement Wednesday condemning the execution. The United Nations is also investigating the killings two weeks ago of three foreign relief workers and a journalist in southern Sudan, devastated by nine years of civil war.

Security Council warns Somalis against blocking troop deployment

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council Friday warned Somalia's warring factions not to disrupt aid shipments or deployments of soldiers to protect them but did not specify any enforcement measures.

Also Friday, the U.N. envoy for Somalia said 750 of 3,000 new troops authorised by the council could be allowed in the country "hopefully soon."

The envoy, Algerian diplomat Mohammad Sahnoun, said he had reached an agreement with Somali factions to allow the troops, "but we do find some difficulties because militias and armed groups are not totally controlled by faction chiefs."

U.N. officials earlier had said a battalion of about 750 Canadian troops could begin arriving in a few weeks.

Bands of looters have been disrupting aid convoys in the Mogadishu port and at the airport, which has been only intermittently open.

Only 500 soldiers are in Somalia and Mohammad Farah Aided, the chief warlord in Mogadishu, the capital, has objected to deployment of the other 3,000.

About two million people are threatened with starvation in Somalia unless they receive food and other relief. Mr. Sahnoun estimated that 300,000 people, mainly children, have died in the past 18 months. The country has been ravaged by civil war and drought.

The United Nations this week launched a 100-day action pro-

gramme for Somalia, including a major expansion of food, medical and other emergency assistance. Its success depends on improved security and troops deployment as well as better coordination among various U.N. and other agencies and governments.

The council statement Friday expressed "deep concern" over difficulties in distributing humanitarian assistance.

"The members of the council consider that those who would hamper the deployment of UNOSOM (U.N. Operation in Somalia) would be responsible for aggravating an already unprecedented humanitarian disaster," Council President Jean-Bernard Merimee of France said.

He was reading reporters an agreed statement drafted after council members received a closed-door briefing by Mr. Sahnoun.

"The members of the council expressed their deep concern about the information provided by Mr. Sahnoun and in particular the difficulties he has faced in the distribution of humanitarian assistance," the statement said.

"The rapid deployment of UNOSOM personnel constitutes in this regard a prerequisite," it added.

Mr. Merimee said council members expressed their full support for the efforts of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and his special envoy, and hoped an appeal which Mr. Sahnoun made in Geneva last Monday for an increase in humanitarian assistance would be heeded.

Mr. Sahnoun said then that a 500-man U.N. force of Pakistani

troops was being deployed "in Mogadishu to protect relief operations at the seaport and airport and along the routes used for the distribution of aid."

The Security Council on Aug. 28 authorised the deployment of 3,000 additional troops and 700 support personnel but they have not yet arrived. They are to be provided by Austria, Belgium, Canada and Egypt.

Mr. Sahnoun said Monday that faction leaders in the northeast of the country had signed an agreement for the deployment of 750 troops at the port of Bossaso while negotiations were currently under way with others to station U.N. units at the ports of Berbera in the north and Kisumu in the south.

Asked after briefing the council when he hoped to be able to convene a national reconciliation conference to bring together all factions, Mr. Sahnoun replied: "I informed the council that we are making progress for the meeting and hopefully (it will take place) at the end of the year or the very beginning of next year, maybe January."

EC demands ceasefire

European Community (EC) leaders Friday demanded an immediate ceasefire in the civil war in Somalia to permit aid distribution to save the starving.

In a statement issued at their Birmingham summit, the 12 leaders expressed concern over what they called "the appalling situation in Somalia and the continuing deaths and starvation."

Unique Roman mosaics unearthed in Paphos

NICOSIA (AP) — A 2,000-year-old Roman mosaic described as "being of the finest quality and of great importance" has been unearthed in the west coast town of Paphos, the government antiquities department announced Friday.

The unique multicoloured panel depicts a triton, or sea god with the upper body of a man and the tail of a fish, rising from the sea and holding the reins of a sea horse. Demetrios Michaelides, who was in charge of the excavations conducted last month, described the find as "of great importance...of the finest quality and of great iconographic interest because its subject matter is not represented anywhere else in Cyprus."

The mosaic was unearthed in the vicinity of the other famous

Paphos mosaic discoveries at the houses of Dionysus, Theseus and Orpheus. These are three Roman-period villas whose room floors are covered with rich mosaics.

The whole area of old Paphos, whose history goes back 3,000 years, has been declared part of the world's cultural heritage by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Old Paphos was the ancient world's centre for the worship of Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love. The modern city expanding over the buried ancient ruins is rapidly developing into a major tourist centre.

Hardly a month goes by without the unearthing by labourers digging new building foundations

of more ancient ruins or artifacts.

The new mosaic was uncovered when archaeologists decided to clear a hole used as a rubbish tip on a hillside next to the town's ancient amphitheatre.

"The investigation of this site is only in its initial stages. It is already clear however that this building, one of the most commanding positions of ancient Paphos, was very important," Dr. Michaelides said. "Everything that has come to light up to now, basins, tubs, floors of hydraulic plaster and even the marine character of the mosaic, indicate that this is a large bath complex," he added. "Because of its position next to the amphitheatre, these may have been public baths, but further investigation is necessary before this is ascertained," Dr. Michaelides said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 News Frontiers
17:35 News Frontiers
19:00 News Frontiers
19:15 The Scientific Magazine
20:30 Coach
21:10 Documentary: "Fragile Earth"
21:10 News in English
22:20 Midnight Caller

PRAYER TIMES

6:17 Fajr
6:34 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:22 Asr
14:38 Asr
17:10 Maghrib
18:27 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
63785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490.
Church of the Assumption Tel.
63740.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 62266
Church of the Assumption Tel.
62541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be southerly to easterly. In Amman winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

WEATHER

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 15 / 28
Aqaba 21 / 35
Dahab 12 / 30
Jordan Valley 19 / 34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN:
Dr. Yousef Samour 615648
Dr. Hassan Mansour 750197
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 646024
Dr. Mohammad Al-Sawa 720206
Firas Pharmacy 661912
Ferdous Pharmacy 778336
Al Azzam Pharmacy 670025
Nasrallah Pharmacy 626872
Al Salam Pharmacy 636730
Youssef Pharmacy 644945
Shamout Pharmacy 676600
Fifth Circle Pharmacy 813141
Sami Pharmacy 661898
Tala Pharmacy 621366
Yassin Pharmacy 624425
Al Aza Pharmacy 777112
Al Azzam Pharmacy 698581
Hisham Pharmacy 771957

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al-Helw 279773
Al-Jawhri Pharmacy 611111

ZARQA:
Dr. Samir Al-Helw 989601
Khalaf Pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Riase 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 771211
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 890200
Public Security Department 630521
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 610230
Central Amman Telephone 623030
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 980100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power

Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

Amman:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644412
Jahid Maternity 642802
Madhus, J. Amn 636140
Palatine, Shamsi 641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 667279
Al-Ismak, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
Hafan, Al-Mohajir 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 775112/26
Aray, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272727
Jbe Al-Nefoes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (05)3320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:00 Jeddah (RJ)
09:10 Laraca (RJ)
09:15 Amman (RJ)
09:20 Amman (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

17:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
17:55 London (RJ)
18:30 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:35 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
19:45 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:30 Rome, Athens (RJ)
20:45 Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:50 Moscow, Bahrain (GF)
12:40 Moscow (SU)
13:05 Laraca (RJ)
13:35 Cairo (MS)
19:35 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:20 Damascus (RJ)
07:00 Amman (RJ)
07:50 Frankfurt (RJ)
08:30 Athens, Vienna (RJ)
10:50 Tunis, Comoros (RJ)
11:00 Rome (RJ)
11:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 Riyadh (RJ)
13:30 Jeddah (RJ)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
15:30 New Delhi (RJ)
16:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:45 Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
20:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

18:40 Beirut, Rome (AZ)
12:40 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
16:45 Laraca (RJ)
20:35 Cairo (MS)

MARKET PRICES

Upmarket prices in US per kg

Apple (red) 700 / 450
Banana 300 / 430
Banana (Mekamun) 450 / 400
Carrot 450 / 300
Cabbage 130 / 80
Cauliflower 420 / 340
Cucumbers (large) 350 / 230
Cucumbers (small) 140 / 100
Cucumbers (mini) 250 / 200
Eggplant 230 / 120
Garlic 650 / 520
Lemon 650 / 520
Marrow (large) 220 / 170
Marrow (small) 160 / 100
Onion (dry) 340 / 300
Onion (wet) 180 / 120
Pepper (hot) 220 / 160
Pepper (sweet) 160 / 100
Potato 350 / 250
Tomato 50 / 40
Custard 350 / 300
Green Grapes 420 / 340
Dates 750 / 650
Olive 550 / 450
Pomegranate 550 / 450

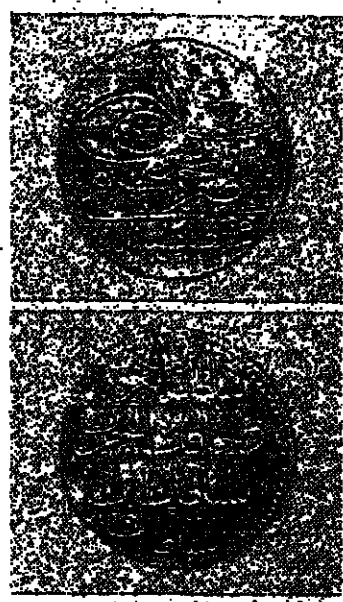
Coin exhibition doesn't cost a penny

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition entitled "Coinage of the Ancient and Islamic World" will open at the University of Jordan Monday.

The Arab Bank in Jordan has published a book featuring old coins found in Jordan throughout the ages, which states that "coins give us a link to history and past cultures."

The publication, with its photographs of rare coins and maps of ancient centres of coinage, claims to shed light on some momentous historical and modern events.

The three day event which will display coins owned by Dr. Nayef Qumsis is to be held at the university's exhibition hall, and entry is free.



Ancient coins which will be on display

CBJ licenses more money-changers

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan's Central Bank said Saturday it has approved applications to license 15 more foreign exchange dealers in moves legalising a trade shut down three years ago in a currency crisis.

The current second list of approvals would be in addition to 19 others which banking sources said the Central Bank had approved last month.

The Jordan news agency, Petra, quoted the Central Bank as saying it was studying further applications. About 300 dealers, many of them driven underground since the 1989 ban, have applied to the Central Bank to reenter the market.

The government, accusing them of speculation against the weakened currency, shut down all 70 of the Kingdom's foreign exchange dealers during a foreign exchange crisis in 1989. The ban, devalued by almost half three years ago, has since been stable.

The exchange houses have three months after their initial approval to meet terms for a formal licence.



PRINCESS BASMA TALKS TO LOCAL RESIDENTS IN AQABA: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, accompanied by ambassadors of various nations and the Director General of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), has been touring rural areas in southern Jordan over the past two days to inspect programmes promoting social development projects. A group of journalists and officials accompanied the Princess to Dhibeh, Hamout, Hamaneh, Qusheh and Dief where they inspected a food programme which is being implemented by UNICEF in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) in a number of areas within the Aqaba district. The Princess met with local residents to discuss social work in their communities and heard requests for other services. The visitors toured QAF's projects established in the region and were briefed on their activities and services. UNICEF officials said that the food programmes offer daily meals to 3,500 children and 2,400 mothers in 17 population settlements in the Aqaba district.

New tomato paste plant announced for Mafrq

AMMAN (Petra) — A special ministerial task force entrusted with stimulating the agricultural sector in Jordan Saturday announced immediate steps to set up a tomato paste processing plant in Mafrq Governorate.

The decision was taken to enable the Jordan Investment Corporation and the Jordan Agriculture Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) to set up the processing plant that plans to process between 1,500 to 1,800 tonnes of tomatoes annually, according to a statement issued by the ministerial task force chairman Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The statement said that the Jordan Investments Corporation will coordinate with the ministry of agriculture in the implementation of this project as soon as possible.

The meeting discussed various problems with the agricultural sector and a decision was taken to fix the price of tomatoes sold to the processing plants at 50 fils per kilo.

Jordan already has two tomato processing plants, one at Ghor Safi and the other at Arida in the Jordan Valley.

According to the statement, JAMPCO will also purchase the total local production of potatoes, garlic and onions in the coming season in order to arrange for their marketing both here and abroad.

JAMPCO and the Ministry of Finance will arrange to pay on local farmers for the tomatoes they sell to the processing plants, the statement added.

The ministerial task force set up upon the request of the prime minister to take various aspects of agriculture production in the country, which includes Minister of Industry Trade Abdullah Ensour, Minister of Planning Ziyad Fich, Minister of State Sultan Udwan, Minister of State Mohammed Al Saqqaf, Minister of Agriculture Khasawneh and others.

Dr. Abu Faris, also announced a set of recommendations reached by the Second Conference of Jordanian Gynaecology and Obstetrics which called for the establishment of a national centre for the registration of maternal and infant mortality rates.

This, he said, would encourage Arab countries to compile health and scientific studies of the causes of infant and maternal deaths with a view to reducing rates in line with the aspirations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other concerned organisations.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King sends cable to Romanian President

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable Sunday to Romanian President Ion Iliescu to congratulate him on his re-election. King Hussein expressed hope that Jordanian-Romanian relations would be further enhanced.

Ministry discusses Sharia schools

AMMAN (Petra) — Aqwaq and Islamic Affairs minister Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi chaired Saturday a meeting which discussed the conditions of the ministry's Sharia (Islamic law) schools in Amman, Salt, Karak and Irbid. Mr. Tamimi said the ministry will give these schools due attention to enable them to carry out their role in the best manner. The meeting discussed means to secure buildings to house the schools in the future and commended the Ministry of Education's efforts to supply them with qualified teaching staff. The meeting decided to allocate sums of money for the schools to purchase equipment and textbooks.

Parliamentary delegation leaves for Hungary

AMMAN (Petra) — A Parliamentary delegation headed by Senator Khaled Al Tarawneh will leave Amman for Hungary Sunday to hold talks with Hungarian officials on bilateral relations.

Foundation stone laid for university law building

AMMAN (J.T.) — A celebration was held Saturday at the University of Jordan on the occasion of laying the foundation stone for the Faculty of Law's hall project. The expenses of the JD 262,000 project were donated by a Jordanian lawyer, Samir Shamma, who laid the foundation stone for the project in the presence of University President Fawzi Gharaibeh. The project will involve the construction of a hall which should accommodate 250 students, several offices for members of the teaching staff and other facilities. A local construction company will carry out the project, which is expected to be completed by July 1993.

RSS investigates food expenditure in Tafleeh

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has conducted, in cooperation with the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF), field surveys on the food budget of families living in Tafleeh governorate. The director of the Princess Basma Social Services Centre said the survey, wanted to find out the families' expenditure on food supplies, and their monthly income.

Committees set up to protect state-owned land

ZARQA (Petra) — The governor of Zarqa has set up four committees in the Zarqa and Ruseifa areas to follow up issues related to citizens' encroachment on state-owned lands. In a memorandum sent to the Mayors of Zarqa and Ruseifa, the governor urged the committees to intensify their inspection work and continue presenting reports on violations so as to take legal action against violators.

Australian delegation visits Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Director General of the Jordanian Ports Corporation Durreid Mahasneh received in his office Saturday a visiting Australian parliamentary delegation. Dr. Mahasneh briefed the delegation on the corporation's handling of goods and shipments and its specialised capabilities. He discussed with members of the delegation ways of enhancing trade exchange between Jordan and Australia. Following the meeting, which was attended by Deputy Mohammad Abu Alcem and the Australian ambassador to Jordan, the delegation visited several sites in the port of Aqaba.

Book exhibition opens at school in Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Director of Irbid's Education Department Mahmoud Tawaleh opened Saturday a comprehensive book exhibition at Fatima al Zahra comprehensive school for girls. The proceeds of the week-long exhibition, which is organised by Al Furqan publishing and distribution house, will go to the schools' poor students fund.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Poster exhibition of the Beatles at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Amer Fatoohi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khreis at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Nightmare Care," dealing with the ecological, economic and social effects of cars, at Al Wihdat Refugee Camp Club.

THEATRE

- ★ The Arab adaptation of Samuel Becket's play "Waiting for Godot" at Al Mashal Theatre, Jabal Lweideh — 7:30 p.m.

DEBATES

- ★ Videoshows of the debate between U.S. presidential candidates George Bush, Bill Clinton, and Ross Perot at the USIS Auditorium (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and re-run at 4 p.m. till 5:30 p.m.)

FILM

- ★ Feature film entitled "High Noon" at the American Centre — 5 p.m.

Queen opens event for disabled

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Speaking from a capital in a region where little is done to help the disabled integrate with society, Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein urged Arabs Saturday to better meet the needs of the disabled and bring them "into the rhythms of everyday life."

"As we strive to achieve our goals and dreams for the welfare of future generations, we should draw on the legacy and the caring traditions of our Arab-Islamic culture ... we must acknowledge that we have only begun to meet our objectives (to raise the quality of life for disabled)," Queen Noor said.

The Queen was opening the Cultural Event for Disabled Persons organised by the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA). The event took place at the end of the U.N. Decade for the Disabled.

Queen Noor told a crowded auditorium at the Royal Cultural Centre that while the number of handicapped people in the region may be increasing, the means to assist them are being hampered by war, economic recession, natural resource shortages and environmental degradation.

"Our societies must broaden their traditional focus to include the integration of the disabled into the rhythms of everyday life. This integration is important to their quality of life and future prospects," the Queen said.

Her Majesty suggested, among other things, that ESCWA countries increase on-the-job training of staff so they can work with the disabled to help the handicapped become more independent and to examine the possibility of developing specially designed equipment.

To help reduce the rate of disability in the region, the Queen said universal child immunisation, education, health care access and media promotion was needed to raise awareness.

Queen Noor thanked ESCWA's "continued commitment" and "contribution" to the needs of the disabled and the research documentation and follow-up work critical for formulating policies on harmonising society with the requirements of the handicapped.

ESCWA's first inter-organisational task force on disability was convened in Amman in 1987 and was followed in 1989 by the first conference focusing on the capabilities and needs of the physically disadvantaged.

Saturday's event, which will last for two days, is organised in collaboration with the U.N. Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, the Executive Council of the General Union for Voluntary Societies, the Jordan Sports Federation for the Disabled and the Ministry of Social Development.

Participants are striving to develop the regional long-term strategy by 2010 for the disabled in the 13 ESCWA member countries. They will also evaluate the World Programme Action in the ESCWA region, the first global instrument that stresses dignity, honour and pride for the disabled.

According to a statement by Mohammad Shari of the Social Development Division to the event, there are more than 500 million people with disabilities. Mr. Shari stressed job opportunities must be created for this long neglected sector of society and said the "development must begin with individuals, family, communities within nations."

Mr. Shari commended Jordan on its "long history of providing shelter, food and the basic amenities of life to those who are vulnerable and destitute. He paid special tribute to the Queen's efforts.

Other speeches included a statement by Tayseer Abdel Jabber, the ESCWA executive secretary, who said that disabilities have grown rapidly because of armed conflicts in the region.

Computer shops wage price war to the detriment of customer services

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the number of small computer shops increases, price wars are flaring up across Amman causing stores to slash customer services and training, industry sources say.

Many of these shops — which often go bankrupt after about six months of operation — hire from the cheap labour pool of Jordan's unemployed college graduates in order to lower costs and raise their price competitiveness.

"It's a price war. Jordan is very price conscious. But there is no protection for the companies or customers," said Hani Daniels, of the Jordan Computer Trading Company.

Jean Claude Elias, managing director of General Computer Corporation agrees, but adds that the personal computer (PC) market is hit hardest by stiff price competition: Customers are buying PCs empowered to fire rockets to the moon, but have little idea how to work them, he said.

"PCs look small and simple but they are deceptive. People think they are easy to sell because they are not too expensive and are being talked about... But if a customer has a technical problem often he can't get help from these newer, smaller companies," Mr. Elias said.

Unknown brands of computers with incredible price tags are advertised daily in the local papers, making buying a computer a difficult, risky and confusing task.

According to the Jordan Computer Society (JCS), the number of computer companies since 1989 has doubled from 65 to 130. The rise is forcing Jordan's 10 to 15 international computer agents to reduce prices, slimming their PC profit margin from 40 per cent to as low as five per cent.

Many say the increase comes with the return of highly skilled expatriates from Kuwait and the growing trend among students to become computer programmers and engineers.

In 1991, Jordan sold about 4,000 PCs worth \$15 million, compared to 1,000 machines sold



Price wars wage in Jordanian computer market — the users are the losers

in 1989. PCs grab the lion's share of the computer market. "The lower profit margin means no room for companies to invest in improvements or expand," Mr. Elias said.

The problem is aggravated by the elimination of custom duties on computer equipment and the constant Jordanian demand for the best and the latest — "even if it is more powerful than their needs," Mr. Daniels, a member of the JCS, said.

Because of the demand for top-of-the-range computers, PCs have a short shelf life as new, faster machines flood the market, making it more difficult for employees to become familiar with the equipment.

Soon to reach the market is the 586 computer line which has the calculating power to launch a rocket into space. Already, 486s, which can calculate 23 million instructions per second, are popular in Jordan.

Four hundred and eighty six and 586 are standard measurements of a computer processing power. A 386 and 486 can range in price anywhere from between JD1,200 to JD3,500.

"The government has a consistent and continuous policy to push computers in this country to make them available and cheaper

to make this technology part of the country," said JCS President Khalid Kilani, who is also International Systems and Electronic Development General Manager.

JCS was established in 1986 to set and raise standards of the computer profession. Of the one hundred and eighteen registered companies in Jordan, 29 are JCS members.

"We need more rules to ensure fair competition in the market and that customers receive maintenance support, including software," Mr. Kilani said, adding that recently a big computer company dumped 15,000 discs on the market.

An employee in a government ministry reported that he was duped by a non-JSC computer company member that purposely mislabelled the processing power of his PC to hike up the price.

"It is like buying a Mercedes and finding a Yugo car engine inside," the computer employee said.

According to Mr. Kilani, JSC members are studying to turn the society into a syndicate, empowering it to enforce its own voluntary regulations.

"The society has no legal leverage. It can only urge people to follow the rules. As of now there is no regulation" he said.

Telephone exchanges planned

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Post and Communications announced Saturday that two tenders to build telephone exchanges, one for the Mafrq region and the other for the new international exchange system, will be announced soon.

Mr. Sarireh said that the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank has given its approval to provide a \$15 million loan for the two projects.

Lawyers' conference closes

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Under the slogan "No For The Partition Of Iraq," the Arab Lawyers Union (ALU) began a two-day conference Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman after which general recommendations came out Saturday via a-vis the Iraqi issue and other Arab matters.

The conference's recommendations condemned the existence of foreign troops on "Arab soil" and what they described as "American schemes that aim at partitioning Iraq." In a statement, which will be submitted to lawyers' unions all over the world as well as various embassies, the conference called for an immediate and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from south of Lebanon.

Ahmad Al Lawzi, president of the Upper House of Parliament, opened the first session of the conference Thursday in a speech setting out its objectives. He stressed the importance of the

conference's adopted slogan saying that "all Arabs have a duty towards the preservation of the unity and must protect it by any danger."

The delegation from the Arab Bank demanded that the conference members should also consider the conditions of lawyers occupied territories who had been on strike since the occupation.

Some delegations called for unification of all political parties and movements under one banner to adopt a unified stance vis-à-vis democracy in the Arab countries. This, they said, was an "essential step for the solution of all problems."

Various delegations also called for setting up a huge Arab network towards Iraq to demand the lifting of sanctions against Iraq.

The Lebanese delegation pointed out the similarity exists between the actions of Iraq and the methods used to divide Lebanon.

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Firmness with all,
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THE WIDESPREAD possession of illegal weapons in the country poses a serious danger to security and stability, and could become a real threat to our democratisation process, as such it calls for effective reaction from the state and the people. Most of those Jordanians who possess weapons are good citizens who will not abuse the privilege but there are obviously those who could use the new environment of freedom and rule of law and mistakenly believe that the new political climate in the country can be exploited with impunity. Such elements are also using the free and democratic soil of Jordan to propagate their policies even though the country has nothing to do with them and would rather be spared the agonies and tribulations of dealing with them. Given this, the stakes for the Kingdom are high because if such threats to the nation's security and stability are tolerated they could easily push the limit to the extreme, something that the people have strived to avoid, especially in a wake of the introduction of multi-party democracy. The government has to have a clear policy that condemns any political activity in the country that does not conform to the laws of the land. If some elements would like to wage war against one another or desire to spread their political "message" in a way that is contrary to established law, then they will have to do it outside the Kingdom or else face judicial punishment. The people of Jordan did not go so far consolidating their new democratic system of government as to let slip away because of actions and policies of irresponsible people who are opposed to democracy and the rule of law. The gains achieved in the direction of parliamentary democracy have taken hard and dedicated efforts from various circles, groups and individuals. All of them have a vested interest to protect these important achievements and are willing to join the struggle to uproot destructive factions still operating in our midst. There is a limit to tolerance in this regard and when it comes to those who abuse the country's atmosphere of democracy and freedom, no amount of tolerance must be condoned. This goes also for all those who might attempt to abuse the hospitality of the country. We must ask them to take their troops and experiments elsewhere for this state cannot afford additional threats to its stability and well-being. We are just beginning a long march of reform, and we need all support and understanding that we can get. We must not do need measures that stand to undermine the gains we have achieved. Jordan must not act soft with those who are exploiting the new open atmosphere for their ends. Rather it must embark on a firm policy and a new course of action with all the determination and political will that are necessary for the occasion, naturally observing and embracing justice and fairness at all times.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHY RA' Arabic daily Saturday commented on the meeting in Amman by the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly involved in the Arab-Israeli peace talks. These ministers will no doubt make an assessment of the six rounds of talks held so far and Alet a strategy for the coming seventh round due to open in Washington on Wednesday, said the paper. One can not help feeling gratified over the reported unity of stand and concerted efforts among the ministers who are for a united policy in dealing with the Israeli negotiators, said the daily. One has, however, to think that the Israelis will not give up their strategy of trying to force a split among the Arabs and achieve separate deals with any one of them, the daily added. The Arab ministers have to take into account that the Israelis are bound to resort to other tactics in order to achieve their objectives at a time when the world community witnesses not only the Rabin government's intransigence with regard to the implementation of U.N. resolutions but also the degradation of atrocities against the Palestinians under occupation. The Arab ministers are called on to foil Israel's expected attempt, to separate what is going on inside the Arab territories from the peace process, demanded the paper. It said no one in his mind can believe that Israel is inclined towards genuine peace when one continues to witness the atrocities committed against the innocent and defenceless population of Palestine. The paper said it is hoped that the Amman meeting would also provide the ground for a more comprehensive meeting involving the Arab states for the purpose of ending inter-Arab differences and tend to weaken the Arab parties' stand in the peace process.

QUESTION of local and imported olive oil which is always demand in the local markets came under scrutiny by a minister in Al Dastour daily Saturday. Recalling that the armed authorities have recently banned the importation of all of olive oil, with a view to protecting the interests of the producers who are expected to have an abundant harvest, Iamnad Daoud said that the government has still to take the next step in order to be fair to the consumers as well. The paper said that certain measures have to be taken to prevent any hoarding and exploitation of the situation by the local speculators who will find themselves facing no competition from foreign imports in the local markets. Since all households use this vital commodity, the government ought to prevent a recurrence of last year's exorbitant prices which deprived the majority of people from the limited-income groups of the chance of buying oil. The writer suggested that the Ministry of Supply charge of this matter and, through a committee of farmers, traders and others, fix the prices of oil. Furthermore, the paper said, the fact that school children are helping the farmers or their harvest should mean lower prices.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Sanctions cost Jordan \$1 billion

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Second only to Iraq, Jordan is the major victim of the sanctions imposed by the Americans against the Iraqi population using the Security Council which was reduced to a rubber stamp by the war. Sanctions cost Jordan around one billion dollars a year and must be discontinued soon.

It is no secret that the Jordanian people, due to national and human considerations, reject the blockade as unjustifiably imposed on the Iraqi people and resent the unfair economic sanctions against any people in the world in general, and against an Arab people in particular.

However, it seems that national and human considerations are not understandable to American and other Western powers politicians who abandoned their conscience and forgot about basic human rights when it came to the Iraqi situation. Therefore, Jordan has to present to them different arguments — economic and financial — and quantify those arguments in dollars and cents which is the only language that the Western countries understand.

Before the Gulf crisis, Iraq used to absorb around one quarter of Jordan's annual exports. When the sanctions are eventually removed, Iraq will definitely import a higher percentage of Jordanian products because it is expected to give Jordan more favourable treatment, arising from geographic and moral proximity.

This means that the loss of Jordan in the field of exports, resulting from the continued application of sanctions, can be roughly estimated at over \$50 million per year. This is equal to 27 per cent of the Jordanian exports and 15 per cent of Jordan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is obviously a substantial amount if we take into consideration the small size of the Jordanian economy, and in view of the fact that exports are the real engine of economic growth in the country.

The loss of the transport sector, resulting from the absence of Iraqi transit trade across Jordan, is estimated at \$250 million a year, not counting the fact that when Iraq is allowed to resume its normal trade relations with the world, it may shift most of its imports, which used to come via Kuwait or Turkey, to Jordan.

The loss of revenue from Aqaba Port, due to missed fees on Iraqi merchandise, can exceed \$400 million a year, an amount which is sufficient to cover the deficit in the budget and make Jordan financially self-sufficient.

There is also the strong possibility that Iraq may build a pipeline to export one million barrels of oil a day via Jordan to the Red Sea. The returns in the form of cheaper oil and transit fees on Iraqi oil will be enormous.

Excluding the benefits of an Iraqi pipeline, because it is not certain, the actual losses for Jordan which result from the strict

adherence to the economic sanctions against Iraq are in excess of \$1 billion a year.

The above figures are not mere guesses; they can be easily proved. The United Nations Charter, and in particular the notorious Chapter Seven which is selectively observed, does not expect member countries to abide by the sanctions if they suffer substantial damages, unless they are appropriately compensated.

Therefore, we cannot understand why the United States would press Jordan to adhere to the unfair sanctions against the Iraqi people, while its Congress and administration decide to freeze the little American aid allotted to Jordan instead of seeing to it that a compensation, no less than one billion dollars a year, is secured to Jordan.

The continued sanctions, for a second year after the Gulf war and the withdrawal from Kuwait, are a shame for America and a black spot on the human record of the Security Council. The adherence to the sanctions by Jordan is not only nationally degrading and morally wrong; it is also economically suicidal. No one in his right mind should ask Jordan, or any independent country, to commit suicide or ask a democratic government to act against the will of its own people.

The sanctions must be removed now.

The Constitutionality of laws

By Pascal B. Karmy

Many countries which enjoy presidential or parliamentary democracy provide in their constitution for a body normally called either constitutional court or council.

The main function of this body is to determine whether a certain law passed by parliament or house of representatives as the case may be, was or was not constitutional. That is to say whether it conforms with or contravenes any provision of the constitution of the land.

According to the British jurist, Sir Ivor Jennings, the notion that a court of law could determine the legality of legislation comes from the United States (The Law and the Constitution, ELS fifth edition, page 144).

In the United States the Supreme Court, consisting of nine eminent judges, can determine, *inter alia*, if a certain law, whether federal or state, is constitutional or not. In accordance with Article III, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, the Supreme Court's jurisdiction extends to all cases in law and in equity arising under the constitution.

In 1803, in the famous case of Marbury vs. Madison, the Supreme Court assumed the power of declaring the statutes of Congress to be not applicable because they did not conform with the constitution, although no provision in the latter expressly grants such power to the court. In 1973, in *Rose vs. Wade*, the Supreme Court overturned a state-court decision against abortion. Indeed the purpose of this right of review assumed by the court was to keep

law-makers within the bounds of the constitution. The court can even overrule its own decisions. In France, to give another example, the Council Constitutionnel was established during De Gaulle's presidency in 1959. The council comprises eminent personalities: most of them are jurists of high calibre. This council is invested with the power, *inter alia*, to examine whether certain laws or decrees passed by the National Assembly or by the government are in conformity with the constitution.

In principle, not only the president of the republic, the prime minister, the presidents of the National Assembly and of the Senate can refer a case to the Council Constitutionnel, but also and sixty deputies of the National Assembly or of the Senate.

Other countries, such as Egypt, are endowed with a constitutional body which is indeed a good and useful means of solving conflicts between the executive and the legislative authorities or between the latter and the rights of individuals.

Britain makes an exception although it is one of the world's oldest democracies. In effect, the king or queen (as the case may be) is supreme in enacting laws and has no authority whatsoever, judicial or otherwise, can challenge the laws passed by parliament (i.e. passed by the House of Commons and the House of Lords and ratified by the queen). Indeed, Dicey, the great authority on the British Constitution in

the 1920's, had stated in his book The Law of the Constitution that parliament has the right to make or unmake any law whatever and that no person or body is recognised by the law of England as having the right to override or set aside the legislation of parliament. (The Law of the Constitution, page 37, 9th edition, quoted in the Law and Constitution by Sir Ivor Jennings ELS 5th edition, at page 137 et seq.)

Some continental countries continue to follow the old principle that excess of legislative authority is a matter between the legislature and the electors. In mainly federal states, such as Canada, Australia, India and the Federation of Malaysia, the power of reviewing the laws has been assumed by the courts or provided by their constitutions.

I am of the opinion that the creation of such a body in Jordan is useful, regardless of the name that may be given to it, namely constitutional court or council or any other appropriate name.

The Constitution of Jordan is the supreme law of the land and all laws, decrees or rules, are subsidiary to it. We have a burgeoning democracy and it may therefore happen that the Upper House and the Lower House pass a law which in effect contravenes, or is not in conformity with, the Constitution or infringes upon the rights of individuals enshrined in the Constitution.

Who will decide upon the constitutionality of the law in question? It may be pointed out that

Jordan's health policy — good intentions are not enough

By Izzat R. Dajani

The Jordanian government is giving top priority to health issues in the country, having created a reasonable infrastructure that provides physical access to services in most parts of the Kingdom and having made a political commitment to offer free health services to the population.

But things do not proceed as smoothly as they might seem. Problems arise from the attempt at expanding services, maintaining and operating public health services and improving their quality at all levels.

The Organisational objective of a health system is to provide the highest level of health care to the greatest number of people at the least possible cost. Decisions about purpose and goals in an organisation such as the Ministry of Health should define "its domain" and task environment. Yet, external events will influence decisions about such purposes and goals.

Changes in Jordan, lack of public funds, currency devaluation with resulting unfavourable exchange rates, and the rich private sector, influence all this. The domain is further decided by products and services to be offered, customers to be served and technology and methods to be utilised.

The management cycle for health programmes starts with planning; that leads to programme implementation, with the anticipated result of improved health status. Goals and objectives, possibilities and constraints, priorities, and allocation of resources are all part of the planning stage.

Implementation includes supervision, incentives, and clear knowledge of what is to be done. The Ministry of Health in Jordan coordinates logistics, sets rules and defines needs in a highly centralised mode. It is the highest authority on health in the country. It is viewed as the "consultant, architect, and builder-performer" of all health services. The previously set up National Medical Institution (NMI) unfortunately failed to take over from the Ministry of Health the functions related to management and health care performance, leaving to the latter the important role of setting overall health policies and monitoring their implementation.

NMI came as a structural change and in response to complete analysis of the Ministry of Health and its operation. It was established in 1988 as an autonomous body, broadly responsible for extending health coverage to the whole population and rationalising health care financing and expenditure. Its decentralisation was to improve its functions by facilitating local adaptability of services, reducing the overload on central information processing and strengthening participation. Autonomy from the Ministry of Health should have been a source of strength with more flexibility and less "red tape". But NMI became just another bureaucratic and hierarchical body which inhibited the search for and commitment to opportunity. This also adversely affected communication and decision making. NMI was a most innovative idea for the improvement of health services. It seemed to be the best logical choice. Yet, and regrettably, it failed.

It must be noted here that public service institutions find it far more difficult to innovate than even the most bureaucratic private enterprise. Peter Drucker, in his book, *Innovation and Entrepreneurship*, stressed frequently that in the absence of a profit

Lack of Gulf security pact means U.S. continues high profile

By Neil MacFarquhar
The Associated Press

KUWAIT — Turbulence in the Gulf is pushing the United States to take on an increasingly visible mission as the region's policeman.

Despite protestations to the contrary, American defense pacts and arms sales — combined with divisions among the Gulf states — appear to be diminishing the chance of collective security measures that would allow the United States to scale down its role.

"Our effort over here, first and foremost, is to build a collective security structure," said Adm. Raynor A.K. Taylor, who this month ends two years as commander of the 24 ships in the Gulf which make up the power of the U.S. naval forces Central Command.

Twenty months after the Gulf war, the United States still has about 25,000 military personnel in the region, mostly in the navy. Wary of sparking domestic upheaval in Arab states or inflaming volatile neighbours like Iran, the Americans want to lower their profile by building up regional forces.

But efforts to stiffen the spine of the states that make up the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — have come to naught.

"We're really disappointed that the Gulf countries have not made further progress," Edward Djerejian, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, said in U.S. congressional testimony this month.

Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait showed how the oil-rich Gulf states were totally unable to defend themselves without massive outside help.

Within weeks of the February 1991 ceasefire, the GCC states signed a security accord with

Egypt and Syria. But they decided Western troops would be less likely to meddle in regional politics and killed the plan.

A proposal by Sultan Qaboos of Oman that the manpower-poor region create a 100,000-man defense force met with polite interest — but no action.

The situation worsened with border skirmishes between Saudi Arabia and Qatar as well as a dispute between Qatar and Bahrain over flyspeck Gulf islands. Saudi Arabia and Yemen are bickering over their ill-defined border.

Western diplomats worry that with U.S. troops around as policemen, Gulf potentates figure they can squabble at leisure.

Iraq, underlining its importance as a regional power, took over the strategic island of Abu Musa in April after sharing sovereignty with the UAE for 21 years.

The seizure drew condemnation from the Gulf Arabs. But

nobody did anything to reclaim the island, which lies near the gateway to the Gulf — especially after Tehran Radio warned that any aggressive action would turn the region into "a living hell of disputes."

"I don't think the GCC has achieved anything. All they have are protocol meetings, and we just see the kisses on television," said Mishari Al Osaime, chairman of the Kuwaiti Lawyers' Association and an independent member of the emirate's new parliament.

The Gulf states prefer bilateral accords with the Western powers for protection.

The United States has renewed a longstanding joint cooperation agreement with Oman and signed 10-year pacts with Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar. Britain and France have worked on similar pacts.

Details are secret, but they include constant training, especially with the high-tech weapon-

ry the Gulf states want to make up for their chronic manpower shortages.

In the absence of a coherent security structure, the Americans have sought, largely in vain, to preposition heavy equipment and supplies so that any U.S. force deployed in the Gulf could do so speedily.

Saudi Arabia refuses to preposition weapons for a whole U.S. army division, although Kuwait has agreed to stockpile material for one battalion, a fraction of what is needed.

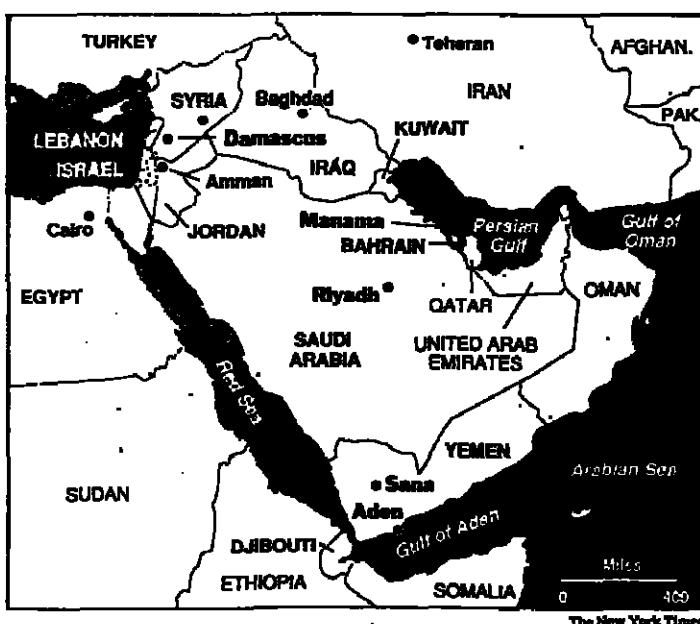
Meantime, the Americans are selling the Gulf states advanced weaponry worth billions of dollars which is compatible to systems used by U.S. forces.

The kings and sheikhs who sell America 10 per cent of its oil keep most arms purchases secret, but dealers estimate the market at \$60 billion.

The biggest customers are Saudi Arabia, which wants to double its 70,000-man military and has spent around \$10 billion on U.S. arms in the last two years, and Kuwait, whose military was stripped bare in the Iraqi invasion.

The emirate this month agreed to buy up to 400 Abrams M1A2 tanks. The Bush administration announced last month it was selling 72 F-15 Eagle fighters worth \$5 billion to Saudi Arabia.

But congressmen and others wonder if these sales won't have a destabilising effect.



Handwritten signature: *فهد الفانك*

Coordination meeting opens

(Continued from page 1)

"Total peace requires total (Israeli) withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories," Mr. Sharaa said in an apparent effort to ally Palestinian fears of a separate Syrian-Israeli peace agreement. His comments were carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Sharaa said the meeting will stress the importance of coordination among Arab parties to the Arab-Israeli talks and will leave "no doubts, especially in Israel... that we, as Arab parties, are committed to the peace process and to comprehensive solution."

The coordination meeting, the fifth overall and second in Amman since the beginning of Arab-Israeli talks in Madrid in October 1991, will discuss issues that are expected to be raised in the seventh round of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks which is scheduled to convene in Washington on Oct. 21. It will also evaluate the outcome of the sixth round of talks which ended on Sept. 23.

Although a positive atmosphere prevailed during the last round of talks, no concrete progress was achieved.

The Amman meeting, described by officials as a routine exercise to coordinate Arab positions ahead of the seventh round of talks, is chaired by Dr. Abu Jaber. In addition to Mr. Sharaa, it is attended by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Political Affairs Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and senior peace negotiators from Lebanon headed by Ambassador Jaafar Musawi.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who is also attending, was expected to present a "set of Israeli proposals" to the meeting and ask for a response, informed sources said. No details were available of the "proposals," which were believed to have been given to Mr. Musa during his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres two weeks ago.

Officials have said that Mr. Musa, foreign minister of the only Arab country which has made peace with Israel, will brief the Amman meeting on the results of his talks with the Israeli leaders.

All delegates to the meeting stressed in separate statements given to Petra and Jordan Television upon arrival that the Arab parties will continue to seek coordination in their approach to the peace talks with Israel in search of a just and comprehensive settlement.

PCC endorses continued peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

The final statement said the Palestinians agreed to a "short, interim phase of autonomy... to allow the transfer of authority under international supervision to an elected Palestinian legislature that will practice full sovereignty over the land and the resources, including water."

It said any settlement has to take into account the "right to return," a reference to the Palestinians living in diaspora, and stressed that the PLO would resist any effort to settle the refugees in Arab countries.

The ultimate goal is "an independent Palestinian state that will be confederated with Jordan," the statement said.

It urged the application of "the land-for-peace concept as the basis of the peace process," and renewed demand for implementation of Resolution 242.

"We cannot sit idle and watch the council adopt a compromising policy that will push the Palestinians into a settlement at the expense of their rights," declared Naji Salamah of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine before he and his comrades walked out.

Iraq, U.N. reach new agreement

(Continued from page 1)

"It is part of a deliberate propaganda campaign related to the Bush administration's election game," Mr. Humadi said.

"The Iraqi authorities have provided and will continue to provide all necessary requirements for the security of inspectors teams and the U.N. personnel."

The 50-member team, the largest group of weapons inspectors to come to Baghdad, has 16 American experts. Others are from Russia, Britain, France, Italy, Germany and Australia.

On Saturday, team members looked more like weekend hitch-

hikers as they left the Sheraton Hotel lobby and boarded two buses at dawn. Each carried a backpack and water bottles and wore a light blue hat with a U.N. emblem.

There was no uniformed police presence, but Iraqi plainclothes agents kept a close overnight watch. Other agents filmed their departure.

Russian team leader Nikita Smidovich declined to say where they were headed, but the presence of an advance party of German helicopter pilots indicated they would fly out of Baghdad.

speech by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, representing the Socialist International. Mr. Brandt had led for 16 years.

"Adios, we thank you for everything, dear friend Willy," said Mr. Gonzalez, his voice choking with emotion.

Prince Hassan addresses Chicago forum

(Continued from page 1)

negotiating parties only refers to short-term objectives such as the establishment of 'interim self-governing' arrangements for the Palestinians."

"But the word 'interim' implies a 'final' stage and through that final stage receives a definition in terms of a time-table, in our opinion it must also include, and not exclude, the emergence of an Arab state whose legitimacy springs from the United Nations, and in the absence of which the Jewish state — Israel — cannot hope to acquire the full acceptance by the international community, and more specifically by the Arab countries, of its legitimacy," the Crown Prince added.

Following are major excerpts from the address, entitled "Jordan's Relations with the Countries of the Region and the USA: Democracy, Prosperity, Security."

"The history of the state of Jordan is a recent one, going back only 70 years, but the history of our land goes back to the earliest recorded times. Before there was a state there was a people, and the people of Jordan formed part of a geographical, economic and social community whose patterns of life, values, culture and faiths formed what we can justifiably call an Arab civilisation."

"The partition of this community between a number of states which took place at the end of the first world created a new situation. The old 'lebensraum' in which the peoples of the region moved freely from one part to another was lost, and new national identities were formed. New interests grew up. New governments and ruling elites enjoyed the privileges of power; and their peoples grew accustomed to their new and narrower horizons. Several attempts have been made in the last thirty years to reverse history, and to restore some of the lost unity of the past, but these attempts did not succeed. The new states acquired international recognition and legitimacy. We in Jordan have accepted the framework we have inherited. We do not seek to challenge or to subvert the regimes of our neighbours, and we subscribe to all the obligations to respect the sovereignty of other states which membership of the United Nations and the Arab League impose upon us."

"At the same time, we realise that our problems, and those of our neighbours, cannot be solved within the limitations of national borders which were created arbitrarily seventy years ago. We are obliged to think regionally. Rainfall does not respect national boundaries, for example, nor do the sources of underground water respect national sovereignty. The search for ways to compensate for the limitations of our frontiers by regional arrangements which respect internationally recognised sovereignties is the principal goal of Jordan's policies today."

"Jordan's contribution to the peace process in its Palestinian-Israeli dimension is one of support for the Palestinians in what we regard as their legitimate quest for self-determination in their own country. We provided the 'umbrella' under which they joined the negotiations along with the Jordanian team, and we coordinated our efforts to advance the process of reaching acceptable agreement with the Israeli side."

"So far the main thrust of our efforts is to reach agreement on a common agenda. On the positive side, for the first time, there has opened up a face-to-face dialogue with the Israelis on trying to reach a common definition of the terms in which agreements will be sought. This is not purely an exercise in semantics. The words describe the concepts, and if we reach agreement on the words, we will have gone far towards defining clearly what each side seeks, thus making it possible to discover where and how compromises are possible."

"In looking at the proceedings of the discussions between the Jordanian and Israeli negotiators, I have been impressed by the slow but encouraging results of some of the arguments about terminology. In some instances both sides have finally agreed on a common formula: In others, where they have not been able to agree, the disagreements themselves are useful, because they indicate where the difficulties are going to lie when questions of substance are reached. As an example of a case in which the failure to reach agreement on terminology reflects a fundamental difference of opinion on a matter of substance, in attempting to formulate the description of the problem of the Palestinian refugees, the Jordanian side has so far been unable to persuade the Israeli side to incorporate any reference to United Nations resolutions which the United Nations has made, and continues to make, since 1948."

"From our point of view the problem of the Palestinian refugees is a basic one without a solution to which there can be no final peace settlements with Jordan. The major constituent of the Palestinian refugee population is now in Jordan: Three successive large-scale influxes — in 1948/9, in 1967, and in 1991 and 1992, (as a consequence of the Gulf crisis) — as well as a continuous trickle of Palestinians forced for one reason or another to leave their homes and to seek refuge in the only country which is willing to receive them — I mean Jordan — have resulted in a situation which Jordan is no longer able to support."

Had there been a normal growth of the population of Jordan since 1948 without the addition of Palestinian refugees and returnees, the size would now have been two-and-a-half million

instead of the four million who now reside on our territory. It is reasonable that the country with the least natural resources in the region should be expected to bear the heaviest burden of support for a situation not of its creation, and for which the international community was responsible?"

"The Israelis wish to exclude the United Nations from the terms under which the Palestinian refugee problem is discussed. The Israeli contention is based on the argument that 'the right of return' which is incorporated in the General Assembly resolution 191

would mean the destruction of Israel: But in fact the resolution envisages the right of return or 'compensation'."

"At the same time the constitution of the state of Israel includes the 'right of return' for any Jewish person throughout the world, regardless whether he or she may have had any connection with the land of Palestine, at least for the last two thousand years. In claiming for themselves a right which they deny to the Palestinians, the Israelis are being neither consistent nor equitable."

Six deputies in Kuwait cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

the cabinet has included such a large number of parliament deputies. The previous maximum was three.

"It's a major achievement for the forces of change," said Abdullah Al Shayegh, a political science professor at Kuwait University. "It means that the government doesn't have a carte blanche as it used to have before," he said.

An emiri decree said the new deputy prime minister and foreign minister was Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, who was foreign minister before and during Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He replaced Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah. Sheikh Sabah was replaced as Kuwait's longstanding foreign minister in April 1991 after the U.S.-led allies ousted the Iraqis from Kuwait.

The cabinet was appointed by the emir on the recommendation of the prime minister, Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

Apart from the six members who were elected in Kuwait's first parliamentary poll for a fully-elected parliament in six years, most of the remainder of the cabinet was unchanged.

Those retaining their posts included the ministers for defence, interior, finance, cabinet affairs, and water and electricity.

All are to join the parliament under Kuwait's constitution. Only men aged 21 and over who could trace their roots in the emirate before 1920 could vote in the election for the 50-seat parliament.

The new government will appear before parliament Monday to take the oath.

Waite to make speech scheduled six years ago

WEBSTER GROVES (AP) — Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is finally keeping a speaking appointment — six years late. Mr. Waite accepted an invitation to speak at Webster University in 1987. Soon after, he was in Lebanon negotiating for the release of several hostages. But he was captured by radicals in Beirut and held, for much of his captivity, in a dark, windowless cell, chained to a wall. Released last November, Mr. Waite has since accepted a new invitation to speak Oct. 27 at the school. Polly Harbaugh had yet to start working at the university in 1987. Now she works in community relations for the school, and when Mr. Waite accepted the new invitation, she went through the files. "I pulled the folder this morning from when he was coming before — and it gave me goose bumps," Ms. Harbaugh said. "Here I am reading this — and I know what's going to happen to him over there."

Egypt speeds up quake relief

(Continued from page 1)

President Mubarak, who is also leader of the NDP, defended his government's handling of the disaster, which killed at least 530 people and injured 4,000.

"I think the government since this problem started has done its maximum, without looking to the routine under any circumstances," he told the news conference.

Mamdouh Beltagi, head of the state information service and secretary general of the NDP in Cairo, told Reuters all 2,000 families whose homes had been totally destroyed had been rehoused in a new satellite town outside the capital.

Around 3,000 villagers left homeless by the earthquake protested at a provincial headquarters south of Cairo that the government has not fulfilled promises of help and housing.

Police said the protesters hail from the A'yat area of Giza, from where hundreds of people stormed the same headquarters on Thursday to press similar demands, places to live rather than the street.

Again Saturday, protest leaders said the people of A'yat have been living in the street since Monday, when the earthquake destroyed their homes.

Giza officials met a delegation of A'yat leaders, calmed them down and promised help. Giza, across the Nile from the capital Cairo, is within the administrative area called Greater Cairo.

Although A'yat is the only place where disquiet from government inactivity has erupted in violence, throughout the metropolitan area people made homeless by the quake have complained of official dithering and red tape. Thousands remain on the streets, especially in poor neighbourhoods.

Engineers said lack of maintenance of construction laws were the main reason so many buildings collapsed in the earthquake.

Army and civilian engineers said the earthquake dealt a death blow to many old buildings which should already have been condemned.

"Only the old buildings which were built in a random way and had had no maintenance since their birth were hit," engineer Fahd Ismael told Reuters as he and other members of a five-man team inspected the Siyyida Zeinab slum district.

Hundreds of homeless sat in the dirty streets or in emergency tents where they had spent five nights since the earthquake.

"Many of these buildings were doomed to fall anyway. Everything taken together meant they could not live. The earthquake speeded their collapse," said civilian engineer Abdul Mouez Abdul Wahab.

Atef Ahmad Abdul Ghani, head of a team of engineers, said 90 per cent of the buildings which collapsed should have been demolished by the government anyway.

'Martyrs of strike' laid to rest

(Continued from page 1)

The bloodiest confrontations took place in the impoverished Gaza Strip, where Israel imposed a week-long curfew on most of the 750,000 residents and dispatched regular troops to patrol the coastal area.

Palestinians said the army lifted the curfew from Gaza City Saturday morning but nearly half the population of the strip remained under curfew.

Three Palestinians were shot dead by unknown assailants in the occupied West Bank on Saturday as suspected collaborators, Palestinian sources said.

Palestinian sources said three Palestinians were shot dead in the area of Jenin in the northern West Bank by members of the Palestinian Black Panther group who accused the three of collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities.

The army said it was checking the report.

Palestinians said the three, residents of the villages Kafar Dan and Salmeh, and the town of Nablis, were shot in an olive press in the village of Missilye and left there.

On Friday Israelis beat and wounded at least six Arabs after the funeral of a slain Israeli farmer, Palestinian sources said.

The clashes took place around the town of Afula, near the northern edge of the West Bank. Palestinian residents of the area said many had stayed home from work Saturday out of fear of continued harassment from their Israeli neighbours.

Israel Radio said the Israeli residents of the area, furious over the murder in the fields of a collective farm, were planning further acts of protest.

An army spokeswoman confirmed the report of the three Palestinians slain in Missilye.

She said a resident of the village called police early Saturday and reported three bodies were found in a car in the centre of the village. She confirmed the identities of the three as reported by Palestinians and said the deaths were being investigated.

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Brandt laid to rest with honours

(Continued from page 1)

Mikhail Gorbachev, French President Francois Mitterrand, British heir to the throne Prince Charles and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He was also honoured in a

speech by Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, representing the Socialist International. Mr. Brandt had led for 16 years. "Adios, we thank you for everything, dear friend Willy," said Mr. Gonzalez, his voice choking with emotion.

AC Milan tries for record

ROME (AP) — AC Milan goes for a record Sunday, trying to match Fiorentina's mark of 40 straight league games without a loss when it hosts Lazio in one of two clashes between Roman and Milan clubs in the Italian First Division.

It's been 36 years since the Florentines set the record, but the red and black, which went undefeated last season in winning its 12th league title, and which are 4-0 this year have an opportunity to equal the feat.

Internazionale, the other club from Milan, is expected to field its best 11 at the Rome's Olympic Stadium against a Roma, which is anticipating the return of Brazilian defender Aldair to its defensive corps.

In other games, Torino is at Bergamo to play Atalanta, Pescara hosts Fiorentina, Brescia is in Turin to play Juventus, Anco-

na is at Parma, Genoa is at Foggia, Cagliari is in Genoa to face Sampdoria and Udinese hosts Napoli.

Milan will be pressed to match Fiorentina's exploits, entering its match with defenders Paolo Maldini and Mauro Tassotti and midfielders Stefano Eramo, Alberigo Evani and Dutchman Frank Rijkaard nursing injuries suffered in Italy's 2-2 draw with Switzerland Wednesday in a World Cup qualifier.

Lazio's big doubt surrounds striker and league-leading scorer Giuseppe Signori, who has seven goals this season but didn't play against the Swiss because of an injury suffered in a scrimmage. The Romans should be buoyed by the return to form of English midfielder Paul Gascoigne played, who drew praise for his play in his country's 1-1 draw with Norway.

AMMAN LITTLE LEAGUE

(Soccer matches played Monday/Tuesday Oct. 12/13, 1992)

TOTS:					
DHL	0	vs	Jordan National Bank	1	
Pepsi	4	vs	Jordan Toothbrush	1	
MIDS:					
GEMT	0	vs	Intervet	5	

Soccer matches played Friday Oct. 16, 1992

TOTS:					
MAG	0	vs	Pepsi	1	
Jordan Toothbrush	0	vs	Jordan National Bank	2	

JUNIORS I					
CDC	2	vs	Modern Schools	0	
Kawar	1	vs	Sipes	2	

JUNIORS II:					
ESCWA	6	vs	UPS	1	
Seven Up	2	vs	Nash/Ebb	4	

MIDS:					
Intervet	0	vs	Taher Meat	1	
AI Hikma	4	vs	Danish Dairy	0	
GEMT	2	vs	Aramex	4	
Intervet	2	vs	Petoseed	1	

SENIORS:					
CIBA	0	vs	American Kitchen	4	
Abrahima	—	vs	Pengoot	—	

STANDINGS

	W	D	L	GF-GA	Pt.
TOTS:					
Pepsi	6	2	0	17-5	14
Jordan National Bank	3	4	1	6-3	10
DHL	3	2	3	15-9	8
MAG	3	2	3	9-9	8
Jordan Toothbrush	0	0	8	3-24	0

JUNIORS I:					
Sipes	2	0	0	10-2	8
Kawar	2	0	2	8-5	4
CDC	2	0	2	5-4	4
Modern Schools	0	0	4	0-12	0

JUNIORS II:					
ESCWA	3	1	0	13-4	7
Nash/Ebb	1	2	1	8-8	4
Seven Up	1	1	2	10-9	3
UPS	0	2	2	3-13	2

MIDS:					
Intervet	6	0	0	25-3	12
AI Hikma	4	0	2	11-7	8
Aramex	3	1	1	12-8	7
Petoseed	3	1	1	12-9	7
Taher Meat	1	4	1	6-7	4
Danish Dairy	1	2	3	6-15	2
GEMT	0	2	4	5-12	2
Intervet	0	0	6	2-15	0

SENIORS:					
American Kitchen	4	0	1	10-3	8
Pengoot	3	1	1	14-10	7
Abrahima	2	1	2	9-5	5
CIBA	0	0	5	7-22	0

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 7 6 5 2 ♠ Q 5 4 ♠ A K 7 3
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?
A.—This bidding is not as good as it looks. There is a distinct possibility the hand is a misfit, and your high cards are not in your longest suit. We prefer dampening partner's ardor with one no trump, although two hearts is a close second.

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K Q 7 6 5 ♠ Q 7 6 5 ♠ Void
♠ A Q 1 0 5
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠ 4 ♠

What action do you take?
A.—This hand is too strong for a "game overall" as little as the jack of clubs in partner's hand could be enough for game. We would double first and then jump to game in spades over any simple response partner might make.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8 7 6 ♠ A K Q 1 0 5 4
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club! What action do you take?

A.—The problem with a one diamond overall is that you will be stuck for a rebid on the next round. Should partner bid a major, you now cannot bid clubs because that would be a cue-bid in support of his suit. Therefore, we would rather pass to see how the auction develops.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K 6 5 ♠ 9 7 4 ♠ K J 3 ♠ A K 1 0 2
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠

What do you bid now?
A.—We have no objection to raising partner's major-suit response with only three-card support, but not when we hold a perfectly balanced minimum—even without a stopper in one of the unbid suits. The hand is no-trump oriented, so there's no reason not to rebid one no trump.

U.S. to announce first indoor World Cup soccer

By The Associated Press

THE UNITED STATES will open its 1994 World Cup schedule in the Pontiac Silverdome outside Detroit, the first indoor game in the history of soccer's premier tournament, a source confirmed Friday.

Organizers of the 24-nation, 52-game tournament will announce the schedule Tuesday, and it will have the United States playing its opening game in Michigan on the night of June 18 and its next two in the Rose Bowl at Pasadena, California.

Germany, the defending champion, will open the tournament at Soldier Field in Chicago on June 17, with the game probably starting at 4 p.m. EDT (2100 GMT).

The final will be at the Rose Bowl on July 17 at 3:30 p.m. EDT (2030 GMT).

American organizers convinced FIFA, soccer's governing body, to allow both semifinals to be played July 13. They will be in Giants Stadium at East Rutherford, New Jersey, and the Rose Bowl, with the east coast game at 4 p.m. (2100 GMT) and the west coast game at 7:30 p.m. (0030 GMT July 14). FIFA had wanted one of the games to be played July 12, but that would have conflicted with baseball's All-Star game at Pittsburgh.

The Americans, 23rd among 24 nations in the 1990 World Cup, will train for the tournament at Mission Viejo, California originally, the Rose Bowl was placed in a group with Stanford Stadium and the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, but the original plan was altered for television.

First-round games will start at 12:30 p.m. (1730 GMT), 4 p.m. (2100 GMT) and 7:30 p.m. (0030 GMT), a source said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Exact times for first-round games will not be decided until after the draw, to take place at Las Vegas Dec. 19, 1993.

In another break from recent tradition, a second game will be played the day of the opener, a night match in the Cotton Bowl. Because of the shift, Dallas will be grouped with Chicago and Foxboro, Massachusetts. East Rutherford will be grouped with Washington and Orlando, Florida.

The starting times were of concern because of European television, which desires games in its prime time, which is six hours ahead of the United States' east coast. While the final will start at 9:30 p.m. in Europe, semifinals will start in Europe at 10 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.

New York to host 1998 Goodwill Games

NEW YORK (AP) — The Goodwill Games, Ted Turner's endangered sports spectacle, will roll into New York in 1998 with athletes from around the world and 500 million in economic benefits, the media mogul and Mayor David Dinkins said Friday.

"I could not be more excited," Turner said at a Madison square garden news conference with Dinkins and Gov. Mario Cuomo. "It will be a blast. The world is coming to New York."

The Goodwill Games were invented by Turner in 1986 to get U.S. and Soviet athletes back on the same playing field after the Olympic boycotts of 1980 and 1984.

There was much conjecture that the end of the cold war would mean the end of the games, with some questions raised about whether the 1994 Games in St. Petersburg, Russia, would come off.

"People ask, 'What do you need the Goodwill Games for? The cold war is over.' Well, it's like being married," Turner explained. "You can't assume you've got a wife now. It needs constant maintenance."

As part of the deal for 1998, New York agreed to provide unspecified help to the Russians for the next games in 1994. Games president Jack Kelly cited New York's "willingness and readiness to help make St. Petersburg a better games" as a reason for the city's victory.

The Big Apple won out over finalists Dallas-Fort Worth, St. Louis and Miami-South Florida. Some 2,500 athletes from more than 50 countries are expected in Russia for the 1994 Games.

The New York proposal covers the city, and nearby New Jersey and Long Island. The 24 events in the Goodwill Games will take place in various venues, including Madison Square Garden and Giants Stadium, site of some 1994 World Cup soccer.

Weightlifters will compete in the Lincoln Center Arts Complex, wrestlers will battle in the Paramount Theater — normally

for movies — and bicyclists will tear through Central Park.

"What could be a better venue for this international, multisport competition than our own international, multicultural city?" asked Dinkins, who — along with Cuomo — sported an Atlanta Braves baseball cap.

The mayor predicted the games would boost the city's economy by \$500 million, more than this summer's four-day Democratic Presidential Convention.

The First Goodwill Games were held in Moscow in 1986. Seattle had the games in 1990 and the 1994 Games are scheduled for July 23 to Aug. 7 in St. Petersburg.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Timberwolves to sign Laettner for \$20.1 m

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Timberwolves are about to sign No. 1 draft pick Christian Laettner to a six-year deal for \$20.1 million, according to a published report. That would make him the second-highest paid member of the Timberwolves, behind Chuck Person, who will make \$2.5 million this season.

Norwich return to top in England

LONDON (R) — Norwich took advantage of the absence of Blackburn Rovers to beat Queen's Park Rangers 2-1 and go top of the English soccer Premier League Saturday. The result left Blackburn, who play at Aston Villa Monday, two points behind with a game in hand. Champions Leeds United, who play Rangers of Scotland in a European Cup tie Wednesday, warmed up for the clash with a comfortable 3-1 home win over Sheffield United. Rangers also won, beating Hibernian 1-0.

Lendl to play Holm in Tokyo indoor final

TOKYO (R) — Sweden's Henrik Holm continued his serene progress through the draw at the \$1.1 million Seiko Indoor tennis tournament Saturday with a 7-5, 6-2 semifinal victory over Russian Alexander Volkov. The emerging Holm, ranked 35th in the world, has already upset two top ten players including Boris Becker this week and needed just 69 minutes to reach his second final of the year. The Swede's final opponent will be Michael Chang former world number one Ivan Lendl who overcame 6-3, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

Argentina to play Saudi Arabia in final

RIYADH (AP) — Argentina produced flashes of brilliance against Ivory Coast Friday in an easy 4-0 victory in the International Soccer Championship. It now meets host Saudi Arabia, 3-0 winner over the United States Thursday, in the finals for the King Fahd Cup. Ivory Coast, which was reduced to 10 men in the last 41 minutes Friday, will vie for the bronze with the Americans Monday.

NYC Grand Prix called off

NEW YORK (AP) — The 200-mile (321 km) Grand Prix race around two of the world's largest buildings won't happen next year after all, organizers say.

Motormarketing International Inc. president Bud Stanner said the company was backing out because it would cost too much to construct a track, grandstand and other facilities around the world trade center.

Stanner insisted that the decision had nothing to do with the controversy that resulted because the city's first Grand Prix race was being sponsored by Philip Morris, a company that markets cigarettes.

Russ Haven, a New York public interest research group lawyer who had sued in state court to try to stop the race, said the city's disappointment that the race was cancelled indicates that it might be resurrected.

Paul Tracy at provisional pole

MONTEREY, California (AP) — Paul Tracy stood between Michael Andretti and an important point after provisional qualifying for Sunday's Kodak Processing 300 Indy-car race.

Tracy, a 23-year-old Canadian with one pole to his credit this season, was quickest in the opening session of qualifying Friday at Laguna Seca raceway, taking the provisional pole with a track-record lap of 111.856 mph (179.976 kph).

That broke the record of 110.555 (177.883) set by Andretti last October on the 2.14-mile (3.42-kilometre), 11-turn road course.

Second at 111.448 mph (179.320 kph) was Andretti, who is locked in a tense championship battle with Bobby Rahal, who goes into the weekend leading Andretti by 12 points and needing only to finish fourth or better to lock up his third PPG Cup title.

Emerson Fittipaldi, Tracy's teammate, was the third driver to surpass the previous track qualifying record, taking third on the provisional grid with a lap of 111.249 (179.000).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY OCTOBER 18, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Wind up whatever has been left undone early in the day of this last Moon quarter so that tonight you will be able to think out an unusual and progressive course of action...

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have some deep longings of an intimate nature that can be more clarified in your consciousness so you can use them more in the days ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Explaining to a friend all the aspects and phases of a desire that is important to you and you can get more assistance than you had thought possible.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Look for whatever outlets of a worldly nature are available to you as the best means by which you will be able to efface your public ambitions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Be more alert to some additional ways by which you will be able to further your growth and development and add to your benefit.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about the business matters that are most vital to your progress, make your decisions and then get into the actual duties that are involved.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think over whom you most wish as companions in your outside

activities, get in touch with them and start the actual towards your joint alliances.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A day to use the major part of the day in making your surroundings as you most desire them to be and especially in adding beauty, comfort to them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) A day for getting into the recreations that life the usual burden that you have and bring you a feeling of relief and enjoyment.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There have been some conditions you have had in mind for tuning up your dwelling and this is a very good time to get into doing this now.

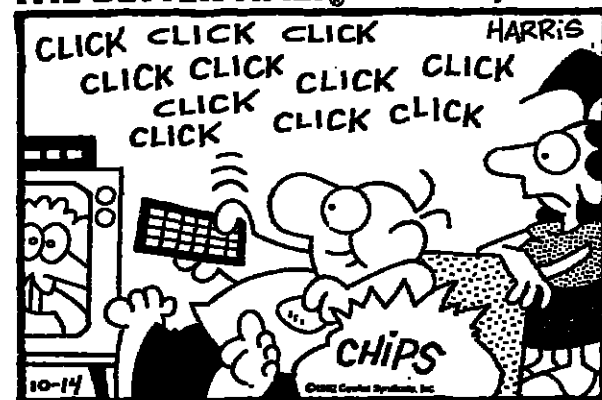
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a very good idea exactly what some others expect from you and as you are good at working out angles you now can make a success of pleasing them.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Your material concerns can enter your consciousness very graphically now so think in the most abundance terms possible and reduce them to workable income.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be just as personal as you like today in going after the things of an intimate and personal nature that mean the most to you and you draw them to you.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

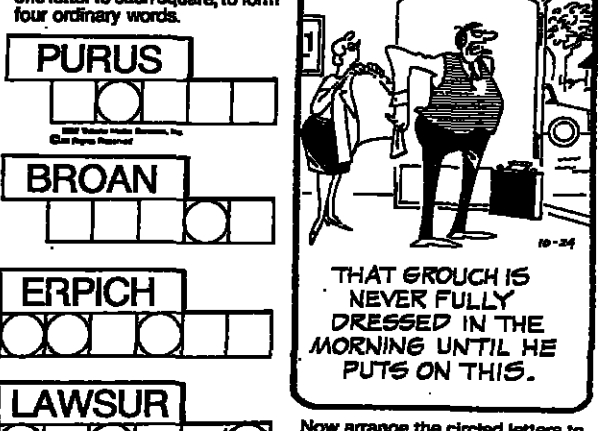


"If I change channels every time I eat a potato chip I'll burn off the calories!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

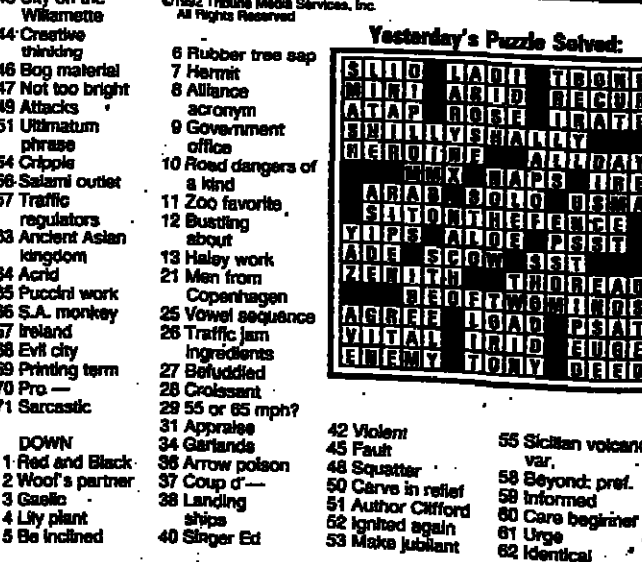
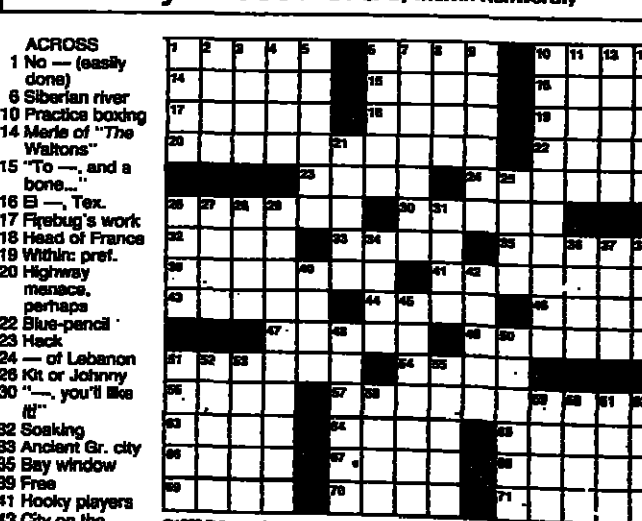


Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: VAPER LEAFY UNFURY FAMOUS

Answer: You should start talking to a shrink as soon as you start talking to this regularly—YOURSELF

THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Karmowitzy



EC leaders order study of currency crisis

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — European Community (EC) leaders, concerned about weak growth and rising joblessness, Friday ordered a study of the currency crisis that almost wrecked the European Monetary System (EMS).

In a firm rejection of British Prime Minister John Major's call for the "fault lines" of the EMS exchange rate mechanism (ERM) to be repaired, the leaders gave the semi-fixed exchange rate grid a vote of confidence.

"The European Council reiterated...its commitment to the European Monetary System as a key factor of economic stability and prosperity in Europe," they said in a communiqué.

The leaders agreed that the currency crisis, which in Mr. Major's words swept like an "economic hurricane" across Europe, called for "reflection and analysis."

They told their finance ministers and central bank governors to report to them by the Edinburgh summit in December on the economic impact of the growing power of financial markets in a world without barriers to the free flow of capital.

French President Francois Mitterrand blamed "anonymous forces" for last month's currency speculation.

"There are devouring monsters, hundreds of billions of foot-loose dollars that belong to nobody and to everybody, which are a lot more powerful, it seems, than states — or some states — and more powerful than international institutions," he said.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whose government's firm stance rescued the French franc from the hands of the speculators, said he did not expect the market storm to block progress to a single European currency.

Mr. Mitterrand said the huge movements of capital represented an "extreme danger" for society. A recent official survey estimated that \$1 trillion a day can change hands in the world's foreign exchange markets, many times more than central banks can muster.

When speculators used some of this firepower to attack the Italian lira and the British pound last month, the two currencies were quickly blown away and have since floated freely outside the ERM. The Spanish peseta was also devalued.

The markets next trained their guns on the French franc but were beaten off by the French and German central banks which had to spend \$32 billion to buy francs.

It would have been unacceptable for France to bow to these forces, especially as its economy is stronger than that of its partners, including Germany, Mr. Mitterrand added.

Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato said technical changes to the ERM might help. But what was really needed was for EC leaders to reclaim some responsibility for the management of the ERM from their finance ministry and central bank officials.

"There's been too much delegation of the EMS to the monetary authorities. What we

need is political stewardship," Mr. Amato said.

EC leaders said currencies would be less vulnerable to speculative attacks if they pursued low-inflation, low-deficit policies — a goal known as convergence in EC jargon.

"The convergence process among the member states' economies...is crucial for maintaining stability and for creating the framework for sustainable growth," they said.

The leaders said they were concerned by lower growth and rising unemployment — a combination dramatically highlighted by Britain's plan, unveiled this week, to close 31 out of its 50 coal pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs.

The statement said the answer to economic weakness was not to dash for growth by increasing government spending.

"It is important for member states to continue to reduce inflation to carry through programmes for controlling budget deficits and to improve the efficiency of their economies through the introduction of market policies," it said.

Mr. Amato said the decision on advertising prices was in the hands of the newspapers' managements and acknowledged that the prices were low. However, he said that time was not yet appropriate to change the pricing structure.

The editor-in-chief of the new business weekly Al Aswat, Mustafa Abu Libdeh, said advertising charges in Jordan were among the lowest in the world. He noted that first page ads in Kuwait were 2.5 times more costly than here and that in Egypt the rates were three times higher than in Kuwait.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said that the rates in Kuwait and Egypt were in turn extremely low compared to those charged by European newspapers, where an ad on a quarter of a page costs not less than \$50,000.

He explained that Al Ahram, Egypt's leading newspaper, limits ads on its first page to only a quarter of the page at a hefty

Calm reigns but turbulence could be around the corner for ad rates in Jordan

This is the second part of an article on advertising rates in Jordan. It is obvious that the rates had been worked out amicably long time ago for all daily newspapers and it is not easy to formulate a new pricing structure at present because time has changed and, with it, so many other considerations have to be taken into account. The first part was published Sunday, Oct. 11, 1992.

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Advertisement rates have never been a problem in Jordan until the late 1980s when increasing demand forced them to become an issue that nowadays has acquired an element of urgency.

The Ministry of Information says it has absolutely no role in advertisement pricing and it will not intervene in the matter which, it maintains, is the sole responsibility of the newspapers.

Mahmoud Al Kayed, chairman and editor-in-chief of Al Ra'i, agreed that the decision on advertisement prices was in the hands of the newspapers' managements and acknowledged that the prices were low. However, he said that time was not yet appropriate to change the pricing structure.

The editor-in-chief of the new business weekly Al Aswat, Mustafa Abu Libdeh, said advertising charges in Jordan were among the lowest in the world. He noted that first page ads in Kuwait were 2.5 times more costly than here and that in Egypt the rates were three times higher than in Kuwait.

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price.

In Jordan, some of the ad costs, charged by all dailies, are as follows:

1) A quarter in an inside page costs JD 180 while a full page costs JD 756.

2) A quarter on the first page costs JD 750 while a quarter on the last page costs JD 500.

By comparison, a full-page ad in the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) weekly magazine published in London costs \$2,450 (JD 2,745). The MEED page equals a quarter of a daily Jordanian paper.

A full-page in Newsweek for the Middle East and North Africa cost \$7,000 (JD 4,760).

Mr. Abu Libdeh said he expected a big change in advertising rates in Jordan next year when, under a new press and publications law, many dailies would emerge and, most likely, the whole pricing structure would collapse because of stiff, unprecedented competition.

Mr. Abu Libdeh said the government would be involved in amending advertisement pricing, even indirectly, through the equity power of the Social Security Corporation and the Jordan Investments Corporation (formerly the Pension Fund) in the four Arabic dailies.

The Social Security Corporation's equity in the Jordan Press Foundation (Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times) is 46 per cent of the capital while the Jordan Investments Corporation owns 15 per cent.

Abdul Halim Arabiyat, manager of the Unified Advertising Office (UAO), said there was an agreement between Al Ra'i and Al Dustour (later struck with Al Shaab) to have ad prices unified and not to raise them unilaterally.

Mr. Arabiyat explained that the UAO was the office through which the majority of newspaper ads pass. The office was set up in December 1974 by the daily newspapers to regulate ad requests from advertisers and agencies, prevent price undercutting and function as a collection bureau.

Mr. Arabiyat stressed that under no circumstances would any of the newspapers break the agreement of prices unilaterally.

"If one of the newspapers decides to break away, no-one can stop it but I assure you no-one will. They've been together for 15 years or more and there is much more than the agreement to bind them," he pointed out.

"People can murder one another but they won't. The same applies to newspaper owners. Someone can destroy the other but he wouldn't," he emphasised.

On the possibility of a "weak" small-circulation newspaper lowering its charges to attract ads, Mr. Arabiyat said such a step would be "fatal" because in general, people associate low prices with low quality or, in other words, low distribution and low coverage.

Information Minister Mahmoud Al Sharif said in a television interview last month that the ad euphoria was only temporary.

The minister said it was up to the owners of newspapers to discuss the matter and agree on amending advertisement charges if they deem it necessary.

Russia slaps 100% tax on imported liquor

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has imposed a 100 per cent tariff on imports of alcohol to try to protect domestic vodka producers, Interfax News Agency said Friday.

It is the second time in three months that the country has raised the tariff. It was raised to 30 per cent in August, from 15 per cent earlier in the year.

"Experts see the increase as a move by the government to safeguard the international market against alcohol imports which have resulted in plummeting sales of domestically produced vodka," the agency said.



FAO head blames world trade order for hunger

ROME (R) — Hunger faced by millions in developing countries is caused by the world trade order, the head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Friday.

In a speech marking World Food Day, FAO Director-General Edouard Saouma praised rich countries' generosity and sensitivity to the distress of the poorest states.

But he also noted "their failure to see that the current world trade order condemns millions and millions in the developing countries to hunger and malnutrition."

Mr. Saouma said poor countries would stay poor and their people malnourished "until such a time as a more equitable trade regime is established and they can expect a better return for their exports."

Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said: "People must have the right to purchase the right kind of food in adequate quantities. No country, no government can accept life sentences in the form of hunger and malnutrition for its people."

Wicked economic data whips Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. foreign trade deficit surged dramatically to \$9 billion in August, the worst imbalance in nearly two years, while the nation's industrial production slipped for the third time in four months, the government said Friday.

The two reports dealt more setbacks to George Bush's struggling presidential campaign. The president has often touted export growth as one of his administration's major accomplishments.

Export growth has accounted for 70 per cent of what little growth there has been in the economy over the last three years as American producers were able to offset to a certain extent sluggish domestic demand with rising overseas orders.

However, Friday's merchandise trade report showed the exports suffered their biggest decline in five years in August, a drop of six per cent that sent the deficit climbing by \$1.7 billion from a July imbalance of \$7.28 billion.

The report showed widespread weakness in all areas of overseas sales from aircraft to soybeans. The overall deficit of \$9 billion was the largest since a \$9.49

monthly decline, was the biggest setback since a 6.9 per cent decrease in August 1987.

It reflected widespread weakness in a number of categories. The aircraft sector suffered a \$115.5 million drop in sales, auto sales abroad were down \$235 million, chemicals sales were off \$227 million, semiconductor sales were down \$148 million, sales of pharmaceuticals were down \$110 million and telecommunications equipment dropped \$136 million.

The various declines left exports at \$35.5 billion in August. Imports were also down, dropping 1.3 per cent to \$44.5 billion. The trade deficit is the difference between exports and imports.

Analysts viewed the decline in imports as a sign of weakness in this country as businesses cut back on foreign purchases in the face of slumping demand over the summer.

America's foreign oil bill totaled \$4.49 billion in August, down 6.7 per cent from the July level.

As usual, the country's largest deficit was with Japan, a \$3.73 billion imbalance, followed by a \$1.88 billion deficit with China.

The Bush administration last week announced a new trade agreement with China aimed at reducing the deficit by removing barriers China has erected to the sale of American products in that country.

Many private economists predict that a widening trade deficit this year will act as a drag on the domestic economy rather than providing a source of strength.

Through the first eight months of the year, the country's trade deficit has been running at an annual rate of \$78 billion, 19 per cent above last year's deficit of \$65.4 billion. Economists are forecasting that the U.S. trade deficit will widen this year for the first time since 1987.

The 6.1 per cent decline in exports, the second straight

Moroccan bank takes stake in Tunisian bank

TUNIS (R) — Wafabank of Morocco has bought a six per cent stake in the Banque Internationale Arabe de Tunisie (BIAT), one of the largest banks in Tunisia, officials have said.

BIAT has doubled its capital from 20 to 40 million dinars (\$48 million). Under an accord signed in Tunis Wafabank bought a stake of 2.4 million dinars (\$2.89 million).

"Wafabank's entry into BIAT's capital is a milestone in the edification of the Maghreb. It ought to help develop investments in Tunisia and Morocco who both conduct economic liberalisation policies," BIAT President Mokhtar Fakfakh told Reuters.

Other shareholders include the French Caisse Centrale des Banques de Tunisie, Societe Marseillaise de Credit et Paribas, and financial institutions in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Qatar.

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	NEW YORK CLOSE
	Date 15/10/92	Date 16/10/92
Sterling Pound	1.6950	1.6485
Deutsche Mark	1.4542	1.4804
Swiss Franc	1.3000	1.3225
French Franc	4.9390	5.0295
Japanese Yen	120.25	11.50
European Currency Unit	1.3468**	1.3180

* USD Per STG
** European Opening to 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank Bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.37	3.37	3.56
Sterling Pound	8.25	8.00	7.75	7.38
Deutsche Mark	8.87	8.78	8.37	8.00
Swiss Franc	6.00	6.43	6.43	6.25
French Franc	10.93	10.75	10.00	9.63
Japanese Yen	3.96	3.81	3.68	3.62
European Currency Unit	10.75	10.75	10.50	9.87

Previous Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	342.75	6.55	Silver	3.76	.080

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 17/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.679	.681
Sterling Pound	1.1172	1.1228
Deutsche Mark	0.4577	0.4600
Swiss Franc	0.5128	0.5154
French Franc	0.1348	0.1355
Japanese Yen	0.5660	0.5706
Dutch Guilder	0.4066	0.4086
Swedish Krona	0.1214	0.1220
Italian Lira	0.0522	0.0525
Belgian Franc	0.02224	0.02235

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Date: 17/10/92

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7850	1.7980
Lebanese Lira	0.02885	0.03095
Saudi Riyal	0.1807	0.1818
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2400	2.3100
Qatari Riyal	0.1845	0.1855
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7450	1.7605
UAE Dirham	0.1845	0.1855
Cyprus Drachma	.3545	.3575
Cypriot Pound	1.5415	1.5615

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	7/10/92	Close	14/10/92	Close
All-Share	151.76		151.55	
Banking Sector	115.04		115.10	
Insurance Sector	165.86		164.57	
Industry Sector	197.78		197.77	
Services Sector	225.29		219.27	

December 31, 1990 = 100

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U.N. accuses Bosnians of escalating tensions

SARAJEVO (R) — U.N. peacekeepers accused the Bosnian Muslim leadership Saturday of escalating tensions in Sarajevo by refusing to unblock a lifeline to the city airport.

"Tension has increased in the city due to the Bosnian president's decision to deny access to the airport via the usual and safest route," Mik Magnusson, the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) senior political affairs officer, said.

"The decision to block the main airport road is a serious infringement of UNPROFOR's freedom of movement," a U.N. statement distributed by Mr. Magnusson to reporters added.

The Bosnian forces said they had blocked the road for fear of an imminent Serb attack by tanks employed in the area.

But Mr. Magnusson said: "We have been unable to discover any tanks in the area suggested by the Bosnian forces... we see no need for a road-block."

"We are thus insisting it be moved and our freedom of movement be restored."

Answering the Bosnian charge that the Serbs might use UNPROFOR convoys travelling along the airport road as a cover for a lightning strike into the city, Mr. Magnusson said:

"On various utility repair missions men on both sides use our trucks as cover to sneak into the city, etc., so it is a valid hypothesis, but it hasn't happened on the airport road."

He said UNPROFOR forces were under direct fire twice from Muslim positions Friday, once on a utility repair mission and again when an armoured vehicle was returning to Sarajevo after travelling along one of the alternate airport routes suggested by the presidency.

A second utility repair work party came under tank fire Friday with no casualties, he said, adding that he did not know which side fired.

Mr. Magnusson said UNPROFOR had proposed a four-point plan to the presidency to get the road-block lifted.

The plan would provide for increased U.N. observation of the area to detect military activity and a moveable barrier which would permit passage of humanitarian goods but could be closed if there was a threat of attack.

"Meanwhile, the much-needed aid being airlifted into the city and a land convoy which arrived at Kiseljak cannot reach the city. This is highly regrettable," Mr. Magnusson said.

He said 60 tonnes of diesel fuel for the city was stuck at the airport, along with four members of the presidency. Some planned evacuations of sick or wounded had been put on hold, he added.

Bosnian Serbs and Muslims fought with heavy machineguns and mortars around two residential districts of Sarajevo, Serb-controlled Grbavica and Muslim-held Hrasno, just a few kilometres west of the city centre.

The rest of the besieged Bosnian capital, left with no electricity, water or telephone lines, remained relatively quiet overnight.

French General Philippe Morillon, commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said: "The (Bosnian presidency) have to implement this commitment that they will offer all freedom of movement for UNPROFOR."

"I hope it will be reestablished tomorrow (Saturday) or if not the day after, but we will not wait too long."

He said UNPROFOR would not use force to lift a container vehicle blocking the road.

Ejup Ganic, a member of the Bosnian presidency said he felt UNPROFOR was not taking the Muslim concern for Sarajevo's security seriously.

"The U.N. doesn't know what they are going to do," Mr. Ganic said. "They're playing a big part in this catastrophe... in fact they're supervising it."

Adding more uncertainty to the situation was resistance among local Serb commanders to a promise by the political leader of Bosnia's Serbs to neutralise his own air force by moving planes from Bosnian territory to the rump Yugoslavia.

Radovan Karadzic offered Tuesday to send his planes, believed to number about 40, from their base at Banja Luka to neighbouring Yugoslavia to prove they were not in use against the Muslim and Croat foes.

But the air force commander, Major-General Zivomir Ninkovic, said he had no intention of removing any planes from Banja Luka.

The police chief in the north Bosnian town of Prijedor, Simo Drijaca, who is a member of the local Serb-dominated assembly, said he told Gen. Ninkovic and General Momir Talic, commander of the 1st Corps, to obey Mr. Karadzic.

The parliament of the self-proclaimed Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was expected to endorse the message that Mr. Karadzic represented the civil authority and if the armed forces chiefs did not heed him they would have to be replaced.

Fighting continued in northern Bosnia and government-run Sarajevo Radio said Serb artillery pounded Gradacac, the last town still held by Muslims in the region, and villages around Brcko and Maglaj.



A Serbian fighter looks towards Muslim positions as smoke rises from a Sarajevo suburb

Bosnia and government-run Sarajevo Radio said Serb artillery pounded Gradacac, the last town still held by Muslims in the region, and villages around Brcko and Maglaj.

Croatian radio said the front line near Brcko was being shelled in a fierce tank and artillery attack against military and civilian targets.

The Belgrade-based Tanjug News Agency reported that Serb forces had managed to push back Muslim troops and move the front line closer to Gradacac.

Summit eases EC crisis

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — EC leaders have promised to make the Community more open and bring it closer to their citizens but they do not yet know if that will win over sceptical British Conservatives and hostile Danish voters.

At a low-key and unusually harmonious summit Friday, they seized the opportunity to present a united front to help rescue the Maastricht Treaty on European union and ease the political trials of their host, British Prime Minister John Major.

"It enabled us to raise the level of confidence between the 12," said European Commission President Jacques Delors, who escaped without the swaying of the European Community (EC) executive which some had predicted.

The summit's "Birmingham Declaration" promised that the Community would be less secretive, would respect national cultures and would put into practice "subsidiarity" — the principle that the EC should act only when necessary.

But decisions on new rules and procedures were left for the next regular summit in Edinburgh on Dec. 11-12, when the leaders also hope to find a framework to give Danish voters a second chance to approve the treaty they rejected last June.

The meeting had been billed as an emergency summit, called amidst the currency turmoil which struck financial markets during the French referendum on Maastricht last month.

But as it became clear that there was no consensus for any far-reaching reforms, Mr. Major lowered his sights and abandoned hopes for changes to the EC's exchange rate mechanism from which sterling was ejected in last month's chaos.

While the sense of crisis within the Community has now largely evaporated — "the worst is over," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said — Mr. Major's domestic political agony took centre stage in Birmingham. He was forced to devote most

of the news conference after the meeting to defending his government's decision to close more than half of the country's coal mines, putting 30,000 miners out of work in the midst of Britain's worst post-war recession.

With members of his own Conservative Party — already deeply split over the Maastricht Treaty — openly rebelling against the closures, British newspapers questioned Saturday whether he could survive in office.

Mr. Major himself remained upbeat, confident that he could push the blueprint for political and monetary union through parliament. And his partners were equally sure.

"The picture is becoming ever clearer that Maastricht will make it," Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers said.

Even Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter, who has to win clear exemptions from a single currency and any future common EC defence policy for another referendum but without renegotiating the treaty, seemed convinced of success.

"Who can see the picture of a Europe consisting only of 11, without Denmark? It would be a horrifying picture," Mr. Schluter said. "We don't want it and our partners don't want it."

Putting flesh on the bones of subsidiarity will not be easy, however.

The first British draft of the Birmingham Declaration was watered down by smaller states such as Portugal who were determined not to allow subsidiarity to be used to neuter the Community.

So the final text spoke of the EC acting only when "proper and necessary," instead of only when "indispensable."

"Subsidiarity is an expression which is in fashion. At first it seemed as though it was going to solve all the problems of the Community. Then the risks that it might bring something bad appeared. Now things are being taken a little more calmly," Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva said.

COLUMN

Fergie sues for \$4 million over pictures

PARIS (R) — Britain's Duchess of York and her friend John Bryan sued a French photographic agency and magazine for more than \$4 million over controversial pictures showing her at a holiday villa in southern France. A court was expected to rule on Nov. 25 on the suit brought by Mr. Bryan and the duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson who has separated from Prince Andrew, Queen Elizabeth II's second son. Invoking France's strict laws on protection of privacy, they sought six million francs (\$1.2 million) from the magazine Paris-Match which published the pictures and one million francs (\$200,000) from its distributing agency. They also demanded seven million francs (\$1.4 million) each from the Angeli Pictures Agency and the photographer alleged to have taken the pictures, lawyer Delphine Lefaucheux told Reuters. They also wanted the pictures handed over to them. Mr. Lefaucheux, a lawyer for the agency and the magazine, said neither the agency nor the photographer had admitted taking the pictures and it was up to the duchess to prove they did. Paris Match also argued that it carried the pictures a week after they were first published in Britain, where they caused an outcry.

Fed up employee shuts down nuclear plant

ROUEN, France (R) — A technician unhappy at being passed over for promotion used emergency switch to shut down a French nuclear power station, the state electricity company said. "It was as simple as pulling the alarm lever on a passenger train," Michel Leroy, a senior official of Electricite de France (EDF) told reporters. The technician, who was not identified, halted the Paluel Plant in Normandy near Rouen Thursday and it took 24 hours to resume regular production, Mr. Leroy said. EDF said it would not bring charges against its employee, adding that he was under medical observation.

Cape Verde has the words but not the tune

LISBON (R) — The Cape Verde Islands are half way to choosing their new national anthem — they have the words but not the tune. The West African state's Commission for National Symbols said it had chosen the lyrics, entitled "Paz E Labor" (Peace And Work), from 84 submissions in a competition, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) said. Now the former Portuguese colony must hold a new contest to find music to match. A previous competition to find a new anthem was cancelled because none of the entries were judged good enough.

U.K. paper asks readers to burn Delors effigy

LONDON (R) — Britain's right-wing tabloid the Sun urged its readers to burn an effigy of European Commission President Jacques Delors. It ran a front-page picture of a smiling Delors surrounded by flames with the headline "try this guy on Nov. 5 — Tell Delors to faw off" — a reference to the Nov. 5, 1605, plot by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Westminster parliament. In an article coinciding with a European Community summit in the English city of Birmingham, it accused the 67-year-old Frenchman of plotting "to stop Britain blocking his dreams of a European super-state." It is also offering a reward of £500 (\$850) for the best Delors dummy to be burned on the traditional bonfires on Guy Fawkes Night next month.

Bandits get \$35,000 from Woody Allen company

NEW YORK (AP) — Two armed bandits stole \$35,000 in a payroll heist at a movie production company owned by Woody Allen, police said. The men walked into Manhattan Productions Inc. on mid-Manhattan's West 57th Street and fired a single shot into the floor, said police Sgt. John McCuskey. The gunmen then ordered the three employees in the office to turn over the cash, and fled, Sgt. McCuskey said. None of the employees was injured. The company is currently working on Allen's Manhattan Murder Mystery.

Savimbi, Dos Santos face run off presidential vote

LUANDA (R) — The ruling MPLA won Angola's first multi-party elections last month but there will be a run-off presidential vote between former civil war President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNCTA chief Jonas Savimbi, according to official final results released Saturday.

Ending nearly three weeks of suspense, National Electoral Council President Antonio Caetano De Sousa announced that Mr. Dos Santos won 49.57 per cent in the September 29-30 poll, just short of the 50 per cent needed to avoid a run-off.

Mr. Savimbi got 40.07 per cent. The MPLA or Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola won 53.74 per cent in the race for the 223-seat parliament. UNCTA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, got 34.10 per cent.

The rest of the votes were shared out among nine other candidates and 16 small parties. Holden Roberto's FNLA or National Front for the Liberation of Angola was third in the parliamentary race with 2.4 per cent. Mr. Roberto got 2.11 per cent in the presidential vote.

All three groups originated in the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule. After 16 years of post-independence civil war in the shadow of regional and super-power rivalry, they have now stood their support in a multi-party election for the first time.

The MPLA has invited UNCTA to join a government of national unity, based on the portion of the vote won. Electoral officials said the two leaders might strike a deal to avoid a second round.

Mr. Caetano De Sousa praised the "exemplary civism" of the 4 million Angolans — some 90 per cent of the electorate — who voted in the elections aimed at

healing the wounds of devastating war.

"This is an historic moment for Africa," South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha told reporters after attending the ceremony.

Jubilant MPLA supporters raced through Luanda, swinging champagne and dancing in pick-up trucks, waving party flags and honking car horns.

Police appealed for calm on state radio. Hundreds of people marched for peace along Luanda's palm-lined bay.

Angola's 10 million people have been anxiously awaiting the results, delayed by charges of fraud by Mr. Savimbi and a probe into his claims which showed no major irregularities. He withdrew to his highland stronghold of Huambo and UNITA threatened war.

After mediation by his former South African ally, Mr. Savimbi agreed to accept the results and meet Mr. Dos Santos to discuss power-sharing and peace. Government officials said the summit, originally planned for Friday, would most likely take place in Luanda Monday.

The MPLA accuses UNITA of troop movements in several provinces and said the two men would have to discuss demilitarisation and reaffirming May 1991 peace accords before holding a second round.

"The situation in the country is getting worse by the day and all efforts must be made to remove the possibility of war and feed hopes for peace," said Foreign Minister Pedro De Castro Van Dunem, known as "Loy."

The MPLA has 124 legislators and UNITA 67 in the new parliament. Except for Mr. Savimbi's traditional stronghold of Bie, the MPLA won deputies in all of Angola's 18 provinces.

Phnom Penh: Blown bridge signals Khmer Rouge offensive

PHNOM PENH (R) — A Khmer Rouge attack in central Cambodia that destroyed an important road bridge signals the beginning of a guerrilla dry season offensive, a senior Phnom Penh army commander said Saturday.

On Wednesday, Khmer Rouge guerrillas detonated explosives under the bridge on National Route 6, severing road links between Cambodia's southern and central provinces.

"It's the beginning of the Khmer Rouge dry season strategy," Major General Neang had told reporters.

He said two security personnel and eight civilians were killed in Khmer Rouge attacks from Oct. 14 in Kompong Thom and surrounding provinces and at least 25 civilians were wounded, in addition to extensive property damage.

Military officials of the United Nations peacekeeping operation have described the bridge attack as "most serious ceasefire violation."

petrators being the (Khmer Rouge)," said Lieutenant-General John Sanderson, military commander of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

Gen. Phat said the Phnom Penh army expected the Khmer Rouge to step up attacks in the coming dry season.

Chinese army engineers attached to UNTAC have begun repairs to the 27-metre (80-foot) steel bridge, which will be completed within one week, said a U.N. spokesman.

Asked if the demolition was the work of the Phnom Penh army for propaganda purposes, Gen. Phat said Phnom Penh had always complied with the peace agreement all four Cambodian factions signed last year in Paris.

"If we had such ideas we would have blown up a much bigger bridge, not just a small one."

Gorbachev dismisses charges over Katyn

WARSAW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev has written to Polish President Lech Walesa to dismiss charges, by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's office, that he knew for years the facts about Moscow's 1940 massacre of 15,000 Polish officers.

But Mr. Yeltsin's aides returned to the attack Friday, denouncing Mr. Gorbachev's letter as an attempt to mislead public opinion.

Mr. Gorbachev said in the letter sent Thursday that he learnt the full horror of the killings, at Katyn Forest and elsewhere in the Soviet Union, from secret

Communist Party documents shown to him in his last days as Soviet president in December 1991.

The documents include a 1940 order by the party's ruling politburo, signed by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin and other top leaders, authorising the killings of 4,000 Polish officers at Katyn and about 11,000 others.

Copies were revealed and were presented to Mr. Walesa by a Yeltsin envoy in Warsaw Wednesday.

Mr. Gorbachev reiterated that he had asked Mr. Yeltsin to make the truth public.

"As you understand, I already had no moral or constitutional right to make any use of the secret," Mr. Gorbachev wrote in the letter, copies of which were sent to the media Friday by Mr. Walesa's office.

"I am happy that the truth has become the truth. But it is a shame that it is in fact being used for the purposes of an internal political struggle," Mr. Gorbachev said.

Mr. Yeltsin's press service issued a statement Friday in Moscow saying Mr. Gorbachev had seen a secret report on the Katyn massacre as early as February 1990.

Armed Zulus march in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu warriors chanting war cries marched towards central Johannesburg Saturday shortly after their chief said he would not resume talks with President F.W. de Klerk until he was satisfied they would produce results.

About 6,000 of chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's supporters, waving spears and battleaxes, headed for the city centre in defiance of a police ban on weapons.

Mr. Buthelezi told Reuters at a stadium on the city outskirts top officials of his Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party were meeting government ministers to see if there was a basis for resuming talks.

The Inkatha leader broke off discussions with the government

on South Africa's non-racial political future in anger over a Sept. 26 peace summit between Mr. De Klerk and African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela.

"To meet for the sake of meeting is not good," he said.

The march to police headquarters in the city centre was being staged to demonstrate the Zulus' resolve not to be stripped of what Mr. Buthelezi calls their cultural accoutrements but which the ANC says are used extensively in township warfare.

The ANC said it recognised the right of any party to demonstrate peacefully but it condemned the carrying of weapons as a threat to peace.

Police had rejected an Inkatha application to carry traditional

China axes old, sick and incompetent at congress

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party, in a victory for Deng Xiaoping's pro-market reforms, has approved a sweeping reshuffle of its top ranks to put in place a new generation of leaders, a Peking-controlled newspaper said Saturday.

More than one third of the members of the powerful Central Committee are set to go during the 14th Communist Party congress meeting in Peking, Hong Kong's Wen Wei Po said.

Old, sick and incompetent officials will be axed.

The left-wing newspaper, often used by Peking to leak sensitive information that filters back into China, had reported Friday that President Yang Shangkun and seven other senior leaders would step down from the ruling 14-man politburo.

The Wen Wei Po said the moves reflected concerns that China lacked strong middle-aged leaders for the 21st century.

"We cannot go so far as creating a fault line in the core of the Chinese Communist Party leadership, thus close to 40 per cent of the membership (in the new Central Committee) will be between about 45 and 50 years of age," it said.

The paper added that special attention was paid to "training talents

who can rule the nation and straddle the century."

Few analysts had expected change of this scale, and although the newspaper did not give details of the reshuffle it appears to be a clear victory for paramount leader Deng in his fight against holdovers from the Maoist era.

In what could be the last and most important battle of his roller-coaster career, 88-year-old Deng is seeking liberal-minded successors to ensure his reforms survive his death.

The official Xinhua News Agency said the president of the congress approved Saturday a list of names for full and alternate members of the 14th Party Central Committee and members of a new Central Discipline Inspection Committee.

This follows preliminary elections by Congress delegates Friday and Saturday in which there were more candidates than places, the agency said. The formal vote is Sunday.

Competitive elections were trumpeted as a Democratic breakthrough at the last congress five years ago.

Mr. Deng has already managed to ram through the congress his daring economic theories that stand Marxism on its head by endorsing free markets.

Clinton warns against overconfidence; Quayle attacks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Bill Clinton Friday cautioned supporters against overconfidence in a White House campaign clearly going his way. President George Bush embarked on a fresh bid to overtake his rival in key states.

"Listen, it's not over till it's over," the Democratic presidential candidate said as he, Mr. Bush and non-party candidate Ross Perot headed into a weekend of politicking and preparation for another face-to-face debate Monday night, the last before the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Top Republicans agreed it was far from over, despite opinion polls pointing to a possible Democratic landslide and a double dose of bitter economic news.

Thursday night's second debate at Richmond, the capital of Virginia, didn't seem to boost Mr. Bush's reelection prospects but the president said "how sweet the victory will be when we can show these pollsters that they are wrong."

"We've got over two weeks. That's a long time in politics," Vice President Dan Quayle said as he campaigned in North Carolina. Campaigning by bus, he told crowds, "Character is an issue in this race" regardless of what Mr. Clinton says.

In a fresh blast at the Democrat, Mr. Quayle said America "might become the mockery of the world if we elect Bill Clinton."

With two presidential debates down and one to go, Democrats exulted that Mr. Clinton's lead appeared steady in the opinion polls at 10 to 15 points. His schedule called increasingly for emphasis on helping Democratic congressional candidates, the better to build a mandate for a Clinton presidency.

Mr. Bush scheduled a late Friday appearance in New Jersey, one of a string of populous battleground states where he trails Mr. Clinton.

It was a Bush barb over Mr. Clinton's anti-war activities during the Vietnam conflict that prompted a questioner at the Richmond debate to tell the candidates to stay on the issues.

"I think the people sent him a message," Mr. Clinton said Friday. "They said to all of us, we want you to talk about us, our problems, and our opportunities. We don't want you to talk about each other."

The economy was at the root of Mr. Bush's problems, and not providing him much cause for optimism.

The government announced the U.S. trade deficit surged dramatically in August to its worst level in nearly two years. At the same time, industrial production fell for the third time in the past four months, further evidence of a continuing economic slump.

Mr. Clinton told reporters he was studying the possibility of

accelerating federal spending on highways and other projects as a way to "bump this economy" out of its doldrums.

But he conceded such a plan might also add to the deficit, and therefore mean higher interest rates, which could hamper economic recovery rather than boost it.

Economic advisers in the Democrat's presidential camp are studying ways to "front-load" federal spending for highways, bridges and other infrastructure, so that new jobs created from the spending would occur early in 1993 — if he is elected.

Mr. Clinton's economic plan calls for pumping \$20 billion a year into such projects, paid for by defence cut and higher taxes on corporations and people making more than \$200,000 a year.

After his Richmond rally, Mr. Clinton visited a hospitalised young girl in need of a kidney transplant but who has no health insurance. He said her situation demonstrates that the United States needs a health insurance plan like the one he has proposed, and he criticised the Bush administration for backing a court decision that lets employers cut coverage.

Mr. Clinton spoke to supporters outside the governor's residence in Richmond before flying to Louisiana to join running mate Al Gore on another of their bus tours.

To rest his hoarse voice, he asked his wife Hillary to deliver most of his speech. He called on

Democrats, Republicans and Perot supporters to "put together a coalition for change, away from trickle-down economics, not back to tax and spend economics, but forward to a new future, to invest-and-grow economics, to putting our people first."

Mr. Perot purchased 30 minutes on NBC television at a cost of \$150,000 to outline his plans for reducing the deficit.

Mr. Perot focused on the economy, unconventionally as usual. He said "We've got to collect more taxes" and proposed higher income tax rates, fewer exemptions for the wealthy and higher business, tobacco and gasoline taxes.

With two presidential debates down and one more to go, concern was evident among some Republicans.

Nevada Republican chairman Brian McKay lamented that people were expecting Mr. Bush to be aggressive during the Richmond debate but "he chose to be presidential. I thought he could have jumped right down Clinton's throat."

With just over two weeks remaining in President Bush's quest for a second term, an air of general gloom has settled over his White House as it struggles in vain to close Mr. Clinton's lead.

Officials who once talked privately about an early Bush visit to Russia and some of the republics of the former Soviet Union after the Nov. 3 election now bleakly